Date October 18, 2021

Attorney General Moody's Week In Review - Oct. 22, 2021



This Saturday is the 21st National Drug Take Back Day. This biannual event provides a safe and responsible way to dispose of unused or unwanted pharmaceuticals, such as prescription opioids, that could otherwise fall into the wrong hands. By doing this simple act, you can help prevent drug abuse, addiction and overdose deaths in Florida.
Right now, we are in the midst of a national opioid crisis claiming 21 lives a day in our state. To reverse this disturbing trend, and save lives, it will take all of us working together to stop drug abuse and addiction.

Properly disposing of prescription medication ensures these substances are kept out of grasp of those struggling with addiction—like a friend or family member who might rummage through your medicine cabinet to find their next high.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, two-thirds of teens who misused pain relievers in the past year obtained the medication from a friend or relative, including their home's medicine cabinets. About 80% of

people who use heroin first misused prescription opioids.

In April, during the previous drug take-back day, Floridians disposed of more than 29,000 pounds of prescription drugs. That’s thousands of pounds of unused medications taken off our streets.

You can help us collect even more between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. this Saturday. Locate drop-off sites by visiting TakeBackDay.DEA.gov.

More information and resources for battling opioid abuse, as well as year-round drug take-back sites can be found at DoseOfRealityFL.com.

Please, take the time to check your prescriptions. If you find a medication you no longer need, take it to a local collection site. This simple act could save a life and help us build a Stronger, Safer Florida.



In The News

Got Unused Prescription Drugs? Saturday Is National Drug Take-Back Day, CBS 4 Miami

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Florida man sentenced to 25 years in prison for opioid trafficking, NBC 2 Fort Myers

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Scammers are sending fake COVID vaccine texts to steal Floridians' personal info, WTSP Tampa Bay

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State of Florida joins firefighter lawsuit against Orange County over vaccine mandate, MSN News

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Ashley Moody supports suit challenging Orange County vaccine mandate, Florida Politics

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Protecting Floridians

Attorney General Moody Fights in Court to Support Firefighters Challenging Orange County's Unlawful Vaccine Mandate



Attorney General Ashley Moody announced a legal filing of a brief in support of the plaintiffs in the Wheat v. Orange County case. Attorney General Moody's brief supports a challenge by several first responders against the county's vaccine requirements for all county employees. The Attorney General filed the brief Wednesday, the same day the county fired the Fire Rescue Battalion Chief following the chief's refusal to discipline firefighters who did not comply with the unlawful mandate.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "These local politicians are abusing their authority and trying to ruin the careers of so many of our courageous firefighters. While local leaders may be turning their backs on first responders, I will not. I am proud to stand with Orange County firefighters, and I want all of Florida's first responders to know that they have an Attorney General who will fight for them."

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Attorney General Moody Announces Arrest of Florida Man for Stealing Thousands in Medicaid Fraud Scheme



Attorney General Ashley Moody’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, with the assistance of the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office, arrested a Florida man for falsifying time sheets resulting in Medicaid fraud. The MFCU’s investigation found that Wilzer Bruno, assigned to provide homemaker services to a disabled adult, submitted time sheets falsely claiming work and services that were not completed. The fraudulent time sheets caused the employer to bill Florida Medicaid more than $13,000 for services not rendered.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “Stealing thousands from Florida’s Medicaid program is not a victimless crime, it harms taxpayers and the integrity of the health care program. Stopping these types of fraudulent billing schemes not only helps us stop future fraud, it also ensures taxpayers know that we will do everything in our power to ensure their money is being spent in accordance with the law and is not unlawfully squandered.” Read More

Events

This week, Attorney General Ashley Moody joined Governor Ron DeSantis in Pinellas County to push back against vaccine mandates. During the news conference, Attorney General Moody announced the filing of a legal brief in support of firefighters challenging Orange County's unlawful vaccine mandate.



Attorney General Moody holding a news conference at the Miami-Dade Police Department Headquarters in Doral to urge Floridians to help fight the opioid crisis by participating in the upcoming National Drug Take Back Day on Saturday.



Attorney General Moody speaking at the Florida Cyber Forum at Port Tampa Bay.


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