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Florida Attorney General's Office News Release

CA: Scammers May Exploit High-Demand Toys



TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody is issuing a Consumer Alert warning holiday shoppers about the trending toy scam. Each holiday season, there are popular toys that many wish to purchase, but may be hard to locate in stores. Scammers monitor these trends and may create fake sale offers for these items, or attempt to send counterfeit toys—or no toys at all—bilking consumers of money and potentially stealing personal information.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “As parents search for the most popular toys of the holiday season, scammers may set up fake websites and advertise too-good-to-be-true offers. Often, the advertisements contain links to malware and the toys for sale may be counterfeit. For more information about how to spot and avoid this scheme, check out our latest Consumer Alert.”

Attorney General Moody is providing tips to help consumers avoid the trending toy scam:

- Pay close attention to a website’s URL to ensure a site is legitimate;
- Do not click on website links from unknown sources;
- Research an online store before buying anything from it—view the Better Business Bureau’s online shopping directory; and
- Remember that if a deal looks too good to be true, it probably is.

Attorney General Moody recently released the 2022 Holiday Consumer Protection Guide, containing further tips for safe online shopping and how to avoid charity-related scams. The guide also contains a list of recalled items to be on the lookout for while holiday shopping this year. To access the guide, click here.

Attorney General Moody's *Scams at a Glance: 'Tis the Season* is a resource full of tips consumers should consider to protect financial and personal information during the holiday season. To view *Scams at a Glance: 'Tis the Season*, click here.

To report an online shopping scam, contact the Florida Attorney General's Office at 1(866) 9NO-SCAM or file a complaint online at MyFloridaLegal.com.

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The Florida Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division issues Consumer Alerts to inform Floridians of emerging scams, new methods used to commit fraud, increased reports of common scams, or any other deceptive practice. Consumer Alerts are designed to notify Floridians about scams and available refunds in an effort to prevent financial losses or other harm caused by deceptive practices. Anyone encountering a scam should report the incident to the Florida Attorney General's Office by calling 1(866) 9NO-SCAM or visiting MyFloridaLegal.com. To view recent Consumer Alerts and for other information about avoiding scams, visit MyFloridaLegal.com/ConsumerAlert.