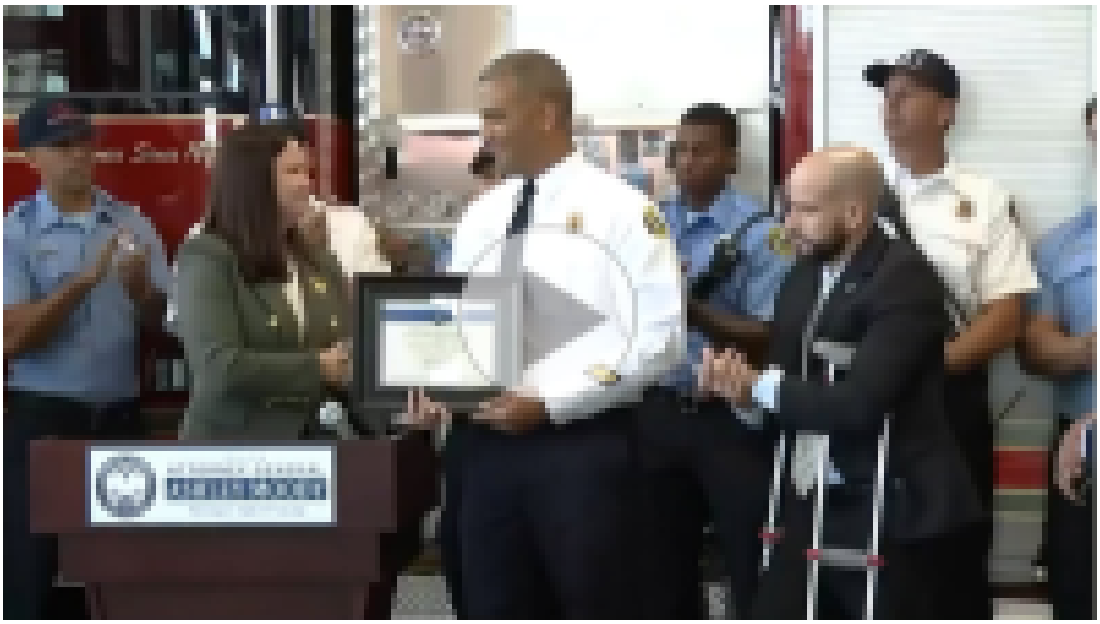
Date May 05, 2023

Attorney General Moody's Week in Review - May 5, 2023



This week, I presented a Back the Blue Award to a brave Orlando firefighter who saved the life of a Seminole County Deputy.

Orlando Fire Department Lieutenant Ben Wootson was off-duty and driving his son to soccer practice on a Saturday morning in March, when he saw that a Seminole County Sheriff's Office patrol car hit an overpass bridge.

Without hesitation, Lt. Wootson sprinted toward the car and managed to drag Deputy Matthew Luxon out just seconds before the vehicle was engulfed in flames. If not for Lt. Wootson's heroic actions that day, the story might have taken a tragic turn.

Firefighters are among the bravest public servants in our state, and just like our law enforcement heroes, they face dangerous conditions to keep others safe.

I started the Back the Blue Award to honor heroes like Lt. Wootson, and I'm pleased that he is the first firefighter to receive this recognition. If you would like to nominate someone for a Back the Blue Award or need more information about the campaign, click here.

By supporting Floridians who back the blue, we are creating an atmosphere of gratitude for our law enforcement heroes and building a Stronger, Safer Florida.



In The News

Firefighter honored for saving Seminole County deputy's life in fiery crash, WFTV 9 Orlando

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Orlando firefighter honored after pulling deputy out of burning car, WESH 2 Orlando

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'Hero saving a hero:' Orlando firefighter honored for rescuing deputy from fiery crash, ClickOrlando.com

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'Blatant hypocrisy': AG Moody says Chase Bank discriminates against conservatives, WFLA News Channel 8 Tampa

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Moody demands Chase stop 'discriminating': 'It is blatant hypocrisy', Florida's Voice

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'Shut it down:' 2 arrested in $3.5M Florida Medicaid fraud-ring crackdown, ClickOrlando.com

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Protecting Floridians

AG Moody Highlights Consumer Protection Resources for Seniors to Recognize National Older Americans and Elder Law Months



Attorney General Ashley Moody is highlighting available senior protection resources in the Attorney General's Office in recognition of National Older Americans Month and National Elder Law Month. Protecting the more than 4.2 million seniors living in Florida is one of Attorney General Moody's top priorities. Attorney General Moody's Office offers several resources to assist seniors who have been scammed, defrauded or exploited.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “Florida is proud of its large senior population and the allure our state has on retirees from across the country. We work hard to protect older Floridians and our stellar reputation as the best place to live out the Golden Years. In recognition of Elder Law Month and Older Americans Month, I am highlighting some of our initiatives and resources designed to protect Florida's more than four million seniors.”

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Attorney General Moody Urges Biden Administration to Provide Medicare Coverage for Alzheimer’s Treatments



Attorney General Ashley Moody is urging the Biden Administration to extend Medicare coverage for treatments for seniors. Attorney General Moody called on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to provide full and unrestricted coverage for U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved treatments for Alzheimer's Disease. Treatments currently not covered by CMS for Medicare patients include an FDA-approved medication that is proven to delay the progression of Alzheimer's.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “I'm urging the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to provide coverage for a medication that delays the progression of Alzheimer's Disease. The agency's decision to not cover this drug creates a barrier to care for our seniors, and we are fighting to ensure that older Floridians can receive the medical treatment they need.” Read More

AG Moody’s MFCU Shuts Down Fraud Ring Stealing More Than $3 Million from Taxpayer-Funded Program



Attorney General Ashley Moody’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit shut down a fraud ring that stole millions of dollars from Medicaid. Attorney General Moody’s MFCU announced the arrests of the ringleader, Clive McIntosh, and accomplice, Tymeka Hester, on charges of racketeering, Medicaid fraud, money laundering and scheme to defraud. According to the investigation by MFCU, McIntosh recruited Medicaid providers, like Hester, to enroll in Medicaid, and then used the providers’ individual numbers to fraudulently bill for services not rendered.

The scheme ultimately defrauded the taxpayer-funded program out of more than $3.5 million. Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “In just two years’ time, the defendants stole more than $3.5 million from the Medicaid program—ripping off Florida taxpayers. Their elaborate fraudulent billing scheme, which also involved money laundering, spanned multiple counties until my Medicaid Fraud Control Unit investigators, working with local and federal law enforcement agencies, shut it down. Now the defendants will face my Statewide Prosecutors to answer for their crimes.”

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Attorney General Moody Demands Chase Bank Stop Discriminating Against Customers Based on Religion and Political Affiliation



Attorney General Ashley Moody is demanding JPMorgan Chase & Co. stop discriminating against religious beliefs or political affiliations. The company publicly promotes inclusion yet arbitrarily denies service to customers with different beliefs.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “For a company to promote its inclusiveness, then arbitrarily act against those sharing a different point of view, it is blatant hypocrisy. I’m standing up for Floridians’ freedoms and demanding that JPMorgan Chase stop discriminating against certain customers based on religious beliefs.”

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VIDEO CONSUMER ALERT: Attorney General Moody Provides Tips on World Password Day to Help Floridians Secure Online Accounts



On World Password Day, Attorney General Ashley Moody is urging Floridians to take steps to enhance online security. Company data breaches are a new-age disaster that leaks the online account information of account members. While 2022 saw slightly fewer data breaches than 2021, the number of victims involved in such breaches increased by 43% to more than 422 million. Once data is exposed, consumers can be at risk of identity theft or other cybercrimes. It is important that Floridians create and use different, strong passwords to secure online accounts against cyberattacks or data breaches.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “Creating strong, unique passwords can help prevent identity theft and protect personal and financial information from cybercriminals. On World Password Day, I encourage all Floridians take steps to secure their online accounts by strengthening passcodes.”

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Attorney General Moody Thanks Lawmakers for Working Hard to Pass Bills to Enhance Public Safety



With the end of the 2023 Florida Legislative Session, Attorney General Ashley Moody is thanking state lawmakers for passing several measures to enhance public safety. This session, Attorney General Moody supported legislation to protect human trafficking survivors, punish fentanyl dealers, strengthen bond laws and help allocate the more than $3 billion secured through the state's historic opioid agreements. Attorney General Moody is grateful for the hard work of each of the bills' sponsors for helping build a Stronger, Safer Florida.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "This legislative session is one for the record books. We worked hard with our great legislative leaders to pass important public-safety bills that protect human trafficking survivors, punish illicit fentanyl dealers, strengthen bond laws and help allocate the more than $3 billion we secured through our historic opioid litigation. I want to thank House Speaker Renner, Senate President Passidomo and every member who voted in favor of these important measures that will help us build a Stronger, Safer Florida."

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AG Moody’s Statewide Prosecutors Secure Prison Sentence for So-Called Psychic Who Manipulated Client and Stole $1.4 Million



Attorney General Ashley Moody’s Office of Statewide Prosecution secured a nearly 10-year prison sentence for a so-called psychic who conned a woman out of more than $1 million. Jaycee Wasso, a self-proclaimed psychic from Massachusetts, exploited a client for years, extracting cash and convincing the woman to marry a well-off businessman, then stole the husband’s money. Authorities discovered the criminal scheme when Wasso’s client attempted to cash a cashier’s check for $1 million at an Amscot location in Tampa.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “This self-proclaimed psychic couldn’t see past her own greed and criminal intentions, and it doesn’t take a crystal ball to predict that she will be spending a long time behind bars, thanks to the skillful efforts of my Statewide Prosecutors.”

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Events

This week, Attorney General Ashley Moody presented a Back the Blue Award to Lt. Ben Wootson at Orlando Fire Station 1 for saving the life of Seminole County Sheriff’s Office Deputy Matthew Luxon.



Attorney General Moody addressing an audience at a bill signing ceremony held by Gov. Ron DeSantis in Titusville.



Attorney General Moody leading the FL-18 Human Trafficking Roundtable at Polk County Sheriff’s Office.



Attorney General Moody speaking at the Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office Law Day Luncheon in Crawfordville.



Attorney General Moody with local Florida sheriffs and U.S. House Representative Neal Dunn at the Wakulla County Sheriff’s Office Law Day Luncheon.



Attorney General Moody with local Florida sheriffs and U.S. House Representative Neal Dunn at the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office Law Day Luncheon.Left to right: Leon County Sheriff Walter McNeil, Attorney General Moody, Calhoun County Sheriff Glenn Kimbrel, Wakulla County Sheriff Jared Miller, and U.S. Rep. Neal Dunn (FL-2nd District)

Attorney General Moody at the Florida Council of 100 Spring General Membership Conference in Orlando.


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