



State Attorney
18th Judicial Circuit
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The Monthly Brief

Volume 9 Issue 9

September 2021



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FOLLOW THE MONEY

From COVID-19 payments, to the Advance Child Tax Credit, and now the “Social Infrastructure” bill being proposed in Congress, scammers, who always follow the money, will assuredly seek to line their pockets once again.

How it Works:

Scammers will impersonate government officials, offering to help you sign up for a new payment program or offer to get the money to you faster.

Their pitches will come by phone, text, email, or via social media platforms.

They are seeking to steal your identity or your money by requesting payment, often in nontraditional ways, like money transfer, gift card or peer-to-peer payment app (like CashApp, Venmo or Zelle).

What You Should Know:

Most eligible people will receive payments based on their last tax return, or other government files, so they do not need to apply.

Government assistance offices don't leave pre-recorded messages, use social media, text messaging, or 3rd party payment apps.

What You Should Do:

Never give out your Social Security, Medicare, or banking info. Period.

Don't click links in emails or text messages they could lead to malware or theft of your account login information. For more info on this and other scams visit the [AARP Fraud Watch Network](#).

*AARP

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Last Receipt Scam



With the incredible growth of online and contactless shopping, electronic receipts sent to your phone or email are common. It's also why scammers are using fake receipt notices to rip off consumers. **Here's how it works:**

The victim receives an email or text that reads “Your Receipt From Apple” or any other major vendor like Amazon, Walmart, even restaurants, grocery stores, and delivery services. The message will read something like “Hope you enjoyed your last shopping experience with our store. Please find your last receipt, attached, and verify the additional fees that are on the invoice. Thank you for shopping with us.” Since most of us have shopped with a major retailer, the notice doesn't seem unusual. But that “additional fees” will make most open the attachment that contains a virus or other nasty malware.

In another version a fake [QR code](#) leads to a website that installs malware that records all of your keystrokes, including your passwords and usernames for sites that you visit. That's great info to any criminal looking to hack your accounts. How to avoid this scam:

Most legitimate invoices will contain the date, time, and specific amount spent. If it's missing be on alert. Next, check the domain of the senders email. Is it an exact match? Or does it have extra letters or numbers like [bestbuy52a5.com](#)? Never open .zip file attachments period. Legitimate receipts never come as .zip files. For more information visit the [Federal Trade Commission](#) and [Scam Detector](#).

*ScamDector; FTC

NEW PRICE GOUGING APP



Hurricane season hits its peak this month and Attorney General Ashley Moody highlighted the availability of the “No Scam Price Gouging App” in both English and Spanish. The new app allows consumers to report suspected price gouging typically seen before and after a natural disaster or state emergency, directly to the AG's office in real time. The app also offers the ability to attach photos and copies of receipts directly from a mobile device.

Price gouging is a [crime in Florida](#) and happens when anyone unjustifiably increases the cost of essential commodities in advance of, or after a declared emergency.

In addition to being used to report price gouging during states of emergency related to hurricanes, No Scam has been continually updated for use during other states of emergency—most notably the health state of emergency declared last year for the COVID-19 pandemic. Consumers were able to report outrageous price increases on essential commodities related to COVID-19 via the app

For tips on how to better report price gouging, read the Attorney General's [Tips for Avoiding Price Gouging and Gathering Gouging Evidence](#).

To learn more about price gouging visit the [website of the Florida Attorney General](#). You can also download the 2021 Hurricane Preparedness Guide in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

No Scam Price Gouging Reporting App can be downloaded for free through Apple and Android stores by searching “No Scam”.

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