



Florida Attorney General's Office and Florida Bankers Association Join Forces to Combat Fraud During Elder Abuse Awareness Month and Beyond

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — June 2, 2026 — The Florida Attorney General's Office and the Florida Bankers Association (FBA) have announced a joint effort to raise awareness about the growing threat of fraud in Florida, where residents lose \$1 billion annually to scams. The initiative launches in June, which is recognized nationally as Elder Abuse Awareness Month, to acknowledge seniors as the primary victims of fraud.

"Fraud is growing in sophistication and reach," **said Attorney General James Uthmeier.** "It destabilizes households, drains public resources, and strips seniors of the financial security they spent a lifetime building. As scams become more sophisticated, prevention is just as critical as enforcement. I'd like to thank Florida's banking community for expanding our reach and giving people the tools they need to spot fraud early and report it quickly."

"Florida bankers are often the last line of defense – stopping money from moving when they spot fraud. It takes significant investment, constant vigilance, and coordination, particularly with law enforcement," **said Kathy Kraninger, FBA President and CEO.** "Through this campaign, we're engaging the public to join this fight and recognize the red flags. When bankers, law enforcement, other partners, and the public are working together, we have a much stronger chance of stopping fraud before the damage is done."

In 2024, the Federal Trade Commission designated Florida the "Fraud Capital of the United States." In that year alone, Floridians lost over \$866 million, with elderly populations disproportionately targeted. Seniors account for nearly 30% of total fraud losses in the state, often suffering long-term consequences including loss of financial independence, increased reliance on public assistance, and emotional distress.

These scams are increasingly sophisticated and coordinated, making them difficult for individuals to detect without guidance. To combat this issue, the Attorney General's Office and the FBA are launching a public education initiative to educate Floridians on how to recognize and report scams. The campaign includes a series of informative videos on how to spot and report fraud, digital and social media outreach, and community education efforts.

The Attorney General's Office leads the state's fraud enforcement and consumer protection efforts through two dedicated units. The Senior Protection Team (SPT), a specialized intra-agency unit which focuses on elder fraud, has recovered \$9.5 million for senior victims since 2019. The Consumer Protection Division has secured nearly \$700 million in restitution since 2019 and \$10 billion in total recoveries since 2011.

The Florida Bankers Association plays a key role in equipping financial institutions with the tools and training needed to protect their customers through programs and partnerships like Fraud Academy – an intensive training led by experts from the U.S. Secret Service, law enforcement, and fraud prevention specialists – and working with legislative leaders on bills to combat fraud in Florida.

Floridians who believe they have been targeted by a scam are encouraged to report it at MyFloridaLegal.com, calling 1-866-9NO-SCAM, or contacting their local law enforcement agency.

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About the Florida Bankers Association

Through advocacy, education and engagement, the Florida Bankers Association (FBA) supports Florida bankers in better serving their customers and communities. Established in 1888, FBA today represents more than 150 banks of all sizes, and their dedicated 134,000+ employees, operating in the state of Florida.