



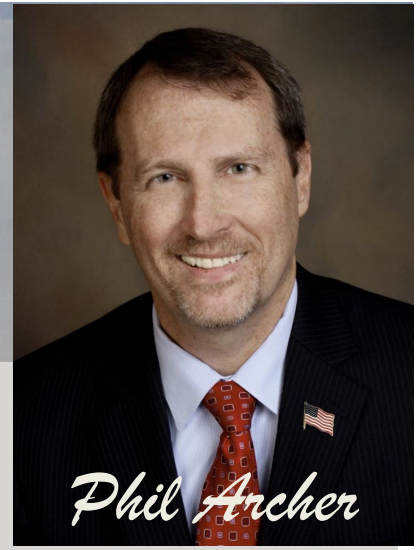
Phil Archer

State Attorney

18th Judicial Circuit

Brevard and Seminole County

**Domestic Violence
Awareness Month**



Phil Archer

The Monthly Brief

Volume 12 Issue 10

October 2024

DV AWARENESS MONTH

Don't stay silent. Join us as we speak up all month long.

Domestic violence is a pattern of behaviors used by one partner to maintain power and control over another partner in an intimate relationship.



Domestic violence does not discriminate. Anyone of any race, age, sex, religion or gender can be a victim – or perpetrator – of domestic violence. It can happen to people who are married, living together or who are dating. It affects people of all backgrounds and education levels.

Domestic violence includes behaviors that physically harm, arouse fear, prevent a partner from doing what they wish or force them to behave in ways they do not want. It includes the use of physical and sexual violence, threats, intimidation, emotional abuse and economic deprivation. Many of these different forms of domestic violence abuse can be occurring at any one time within the same intimate relationship.

Every October, we rededicate ourselves to breaking the cycle. Here are just a few ways to [learn more about DV](#) or get help:

In Seminole: [Safe House of Seminole](#)

In Brevard: [Serene Harbor](#) (321) 726-8282

Nationally: [The Hotline](#) (800) 799-7233

State Attorney Advocates:

Seminole (407) 665-6115

Brevard: (321) 617-7510 x52775

*TheHotline.org

Comments or Questions?

Subscribe: philarcher@sa18.org

Beware of Text Scams

If you have a cell phone, you've probably noticed an increase in text messages from people you don't know. According to [call-security firm RoboKiller](#), Americans are receiving 18% more spam texts, also known as smishing, compared to last year. The FTC reported \$330 million in losses last year to fraudulent texts. Likely this is just a fraction of losses, given vast underreporting by fraud victims. **What you should know:**

Be suspicious of any unsolicited text message, especially if it claims there is an issue [with your bank](#), retail accounts, or a package delivery problem. Also a government agency reporting DMV issues or missed court. Beware of any free prizes, gift cards, or coupon deals. In all these you'll be asked to click a link to learn more, but don't do it!

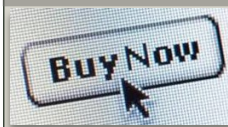
Crooks use caller ID spoofing to pose as the real or trusted source. The links lead to fake websites like a bank, and try to get you to "log in" to steal your account credentials. Sometimes the links will install malware on your device. **What to watch out for:**

#1:Check for misspellings or grammar mistakes in messages **#2:**Watch for fake or generic names that don't match. **#3:**Never click links in unsolicited messages-verify the info by contacting the company independently. **#4:**Forward scam texts to your wireless provider at 7726 or "SPAM" **#5:**Report scams to the [Federal Trade Commission](#) or the [Consumer Protection Agency](#) for your state.

Learn more about [scams and fraud from the AARP](#)

*AARP

GREAT PRICE? THINK TWICE



Reports of fake shopping websites are on the rise. Scammers are much better at creating professional sites and then exploiting buyer protection programs like PayPal to rip-off consumers.

How it Works: You're shopping online and find a site with amazing deals, often brand name goods at a significant discount. The website and the products look legitimate, so you decide to take a chance and make a purchase. The site instructs you to pay through PayPal, which should provide extra security.

After checkout, you get a confirmation email that contains a tracking number from UPS, FedEx, or another shipping service. After a few days, you log onto the site and see that your package has been delivered, but no box ever arrived! The shipping company confirms the package was delivered... but to the wrong address. When you try to contact the ecommerce site you find no contact info. In other cases they are unhelpful or simply don't respond. In some cases consumers who filed claims with PayPal were told that because the crooks provided proof of delivery, the claims weren't paid! Since then [PayPal](#) and the major delivery carriers are working to identify these bogus sites and have been more responsive to claims. Avoid these scams by knowing your rights and responsibilities with online payments. Confirm sites have real contact info and try it. If items are selling for much less than elsewhere be on alert. [BBB online shopping tips.](#)

For more resources on shipping fraud, see [FedEx's website](#) and [UPS's online resource center](#). To learn more about scams, go to [BBB.org/ScamTips](#).

* Source BBB.org