



State Attorney  
18th Judicial Circuit  
Brevard and Seminole County



State Attorney William Scheiner

# The Monthly Brief

Volume 13 Issue 1

January 2025

## Jury-Duty Scams Cost You By Seeming Official

Jury-duty scams are on the rise and costing victims thousands, the [Florida Attorney General reports](#).

### How It Works

The scammer contacts you by phone, text message or email, often impersonating a court official or law enforcement officer, and demands payment of a fine for a missed jury-duty summons. They might even threaten you with arrest unless you pay right away.

Phone calls can sound and look legitimate, with caller ID showing a local police phone number and the caller sounding official.

To pay the fine, the scammer asks you to wire money, put cash on a gift card or pre-paid debit card and share the PIN, use a digital wallet app, or even send cryptocurrency using a Bitcoin ATM.

Sometimes, however, the point of the scam is identity theft. Scammers have used email with “jury summons” attached to the messages. The file is really malware, and downloading it will infect your computer.

### Protect Yourself

Florida courts always send jury summons and related information through the mail.

“Remember that legitimate court officials will not threaten to arrest or demand immediate payment over the phone for missing jury duty, and payments will never be requested in the form of gift cards or money transfer apps,” the [Attorney General’s office says](#).

If you receive a sketchy email with an attachment, do not click it or download it.

If you question whether you must appear in court, look up the phone number for your jurisdiction on its website and call.

## Greetings From Your New State Attorney

*William Scheiner*

Thank you for electing me as [your next state attorney](#) for Brevard and Seminole counties. I’m grateful for the opportunity to succeed Phil Archer, who served the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District so well. I’m also glad to continue publishing the *Monthly Brief*, to help you and your neighbors stand up against scams and other crimes.

A little about me: I’m a career prosecutor, a father of two girls, and a Central Florida native. I decided on a career in law after becoming a crime victim myself. While working my way through college in 2001, I was robbed at gunpoint, kidnapped, and shot.

Thrust into the criminal justice system, I met police officers, lawyers, judges, and advocates. I saw how the system impacts lives and set my sights on helping victims and their families through the worst of times — the way I was helped.

Now, as state attorney, my priorities for this term include:

- Establish an Economic Crimes and Elder Abuse and Services Unit.
- Increase Victim Services.
- Continue our excellent working relationship with law enforcement and community leaders.

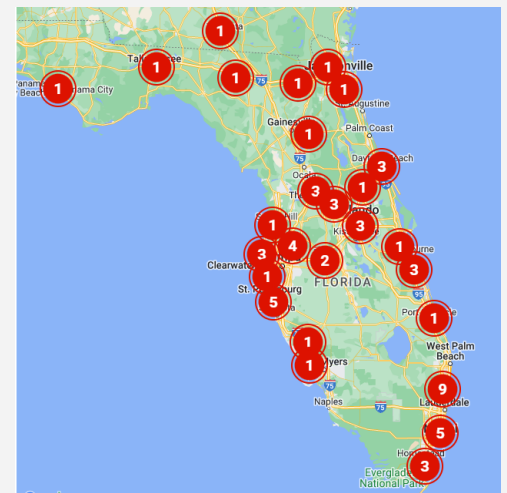
## Explore AARP’s Scam-Tracking Map

The AARP’s online [Fraud Watch Network Scam-Tracking Map](#) shows scams reported in your area. Report your scam to warn your neighbors and see what else has been reported near you. The latest in East Central Florida:

**Tech support scams:** Text shares link to update your phone operating system.

**UPS/USPS scam:** Text asks you to click a link to retrieve undelivered package.

**Identity theft:** email with recipient’s full name, number and address, threatens harm unless sender is paid in Bitcoin.



Subscribe or share your feedback: [Mreed@SA18.org](mailto:Mreed@SA18.org)