

# e FLORIDA CONSUMER NEWSLETTER

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## August 2020 Newsletter Topics



### **Suspicious Seed Packets from China:**

FDACS is warning Floridians about unsolicited packages of seeds received through the mail.



### **Brushing Scams:**

Online sellers are using victims' names and addresses to disguise themselves as customers, buying their own products, and then leaving five-star reviews for them.



## **FTC vs. Debt Relief Scams:**

Last year the FTC brought a case against a student loan debt relief firm, and in July the court ruled in favor of consumers.



## **Deceptive Credit Card Interest Rate Reduction Offers:**

Finding ways to lower credit card bills — sometimes by simply calling your credit card company directly and asking for a lower rate — can save you lots of cash. So, what about those companies that call with a “guaranteed” credit card interest rate reduction offer (for a small fee) and a promise to save you thousands of dollars?



## **Misleading Background Reports:**

According to a lawsuit announced on July 27, 2020, MyLife.com, which sells background reports, raised red flags by posting deceptive “teaser” reports online.



## **Bitcoin Scam Reveals Social Engineering Hack at Twitter:**

The recent social-engineering hijack of Twitter accounts highlights a larger issue that has been on the increase since COVID-19 began: the prevalence of cryptocurrency scams.



## Don't Get Shortchanged:

Remember when stores ran out of toilet paper, hand sanitizer, and face masks? Well, now COVID-19 is cause for a new shortage: coins.

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*The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is the state's clearinghouse for consumer complaints, protection and information. Consumers who would like information about filing a complaint against a business or who believe fraud has taken place can visit us online at [FloridaConsumerHelp.com](http://FloridaConsumerHelp.com) or contact the department's consumer protection and information hotline by calling 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) or 1-800-FL-AYUDA (352-9832) for Spanish speakers.*

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**Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**

**Nicole "Nikki" Fried, Commissioner**

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