

# **e** FLORIDA CONSUMER **NEWSLETTER**

[www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com](http://www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com)

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1-800-HELP-FLA

352-9832

1-800-FL-AYUDA

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## **October 2020 Newsletter Topics**



### **Sham Charities Scammed Consumers Out of Millions:**

As much as 90 percent of the money raised by the defendants for these sham charities went to the defendants themselves as payment for their fundraising services instead of the charitable programs.



### **\$147 Million in Second Group of Western Union Refunds:**

Refund checks worth about \$147 million are going out to almost 33,000 people who sent money to scammers through Western Union wire transfers.



## **“Waiting Package” Phishing Scam:**

The Federal Trade Commission has reported complaints from people who have received text messages saying that there is a package waiting for them and asking them to click a link to learn more. This is called phishing.



## **Free Trials Can Be Costly:**

Getting free stuff is cool...until it isn't free. It is decidedly uncool when, after luring you in with “free trials” for products you might like, a company hits you with surprise charges during the supposedly “free” trial period.



## **Celebrate Global Handwashing Day:**

October 15 is Global Handwashing Day, a day to increase our awareness of proper handwashing techniques and to understand the importance of handwashing to prevent illness.



## **Consumer Protection Speaker Request:**

Do you need a guest speaker for your organization's next virtual event or meeting? Call us at 1-800-HELP-FLA or visit [www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com](http://www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com) for more information on how to request a speaker!

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

*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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