

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

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

**435-7352**  
**1-800-HELP-FLA**

**352-9832**  
**1-800-FL-AYUDA**

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## **February 2022 Newsletter Topics**



### **Identity Theft Awareness Week:**

Beginning January 31 and running through February 4, the FTC and its partners will host free webinars, podcasts, and other events focused on trending issues in identity theft.



### **Identity Theft Awareness:**

Identity theft is a crime that does not discriminate based on age. Many of its victims are unaware that their identity has been stolen until they are denied credit or sent a bill for purchases they did not make.



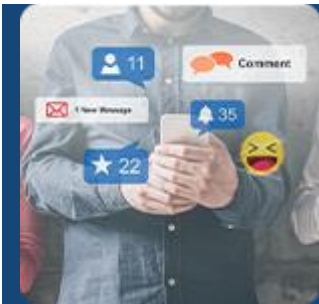
## QR Code Scams:

QR codes are commonly used to access information and websites, download an app, send a text message, and much more. Unfortunately, scammers have also found ways to use QR codes to steal money and personally identifying information (PII) from unsuspecting consumers.



## Crypto Payment Scam Alert:

The FTC warns of a new spin on scammers asking people to pay with cryptocurrency.



## DM Safely in 2022:

[Fraud.org](https://www.fraud.org) warns consumers to be especially wary of scammers seeking them out through direct messaging channels.



## COVID-19 Effect on Non-profits:

Florida Nonprofit Alliance surveyed nonprofits across the state of Florida in late 2021 to get an update on how the COVID-19 pandemic affected them throughout the year. The key findings are split into two categories - the challenging news and the bright spots.



## Baking Safety Tips:

No matter the season, it is always a great time to bake your favorite goodies!

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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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