



State Attorney
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Brevard and Seminole County



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The Monthly Brief

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Don't Lose Your Retirement Savings to Cryptocurrency Scams

Cryptocurrency scammers are increasingly exploiting seniors' desire for secure retirement funds with promises of high returns through fake crypto investments.

These fraudsters pose as financial advisors or promote sham apps, tricking victims into sharing banking details or transferring funds to untraceable digital wallets. The FBI noted a 300% spike in crypto-related investment fraud starting in 2022 and continuing into 2025.

Seniors can be particularly vulnerable due to their perceived wealth, limited familiarity with digital currencies, and potential social isolation.

Here's how to stay safe:

Verify Before Investing

Never trust unsolicited calls, emails, or texts promising guaranteed crypto profits. Research any investment opportunity through trusted sources like the Florida Office of Financial Regulation (1-800-848-3792) and avoid apps or advisors without verifiable credentials.

Avoid Rushed Decisions

Scammers create urgency, pressuring you to invest immediately. Take time to consult a trusted family member or financial advisor before sending money or sharing personal information.

Secure Your Devices

Use updated antivirus software and avoid clicking links in unsolicited messages, which may install malware to steal your data. Report suspicious activity to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3.gov) or the National Elder Fraud Hotline: 833-372-8311



X/AI illustration

What to Do About Illegal Robotexts, Robocalls

Avoid answering texts and calls from unrecognized numbers – they're usually trouble, the Florida Attorney General's Office reports.

Replying to, liking, or clicking on those automated text messages shows the scammers that the targeted user is active and will lead to even more frequent scam messages. And never, ever provide personal information, account numbers, Social Security numbers, passwords or other identifying information to unexpected or unsolicited calls.

So what can you do about those annoying and predatory texts and calls?

Report unwanted robotexts or robocalls to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services by visiting:

FDACS.gov/Consumer-Resources/Florida-Do-Not-Call

Report scam messages to the Federal Trade Commission's Report Fraud website: **ReportFraud.FTC.gov**

To report criminal activity involving malware related to robotexts or robocalls, contact the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at: **IC3.gov**

You can also report scams associated with these messages to the Florida Attorney General's Office at: **MyFloridalegal.com**

And you can report fraud of all kinds to the Florida Attorney General's Office by calling: **1-866-966-7226**



Former Brevard County Clerk of Courts Mitch Needelman Ruled Competent to Stand Trial on Corruption Charges

Former Brevard County clerk of courts Mitch Needelman has been ruled competent to stand trial for a second time on charges including bribery, conspiracy, bid tampering and official misconduct.

The charges stem from Needelman's relationship with a software company that received millions of dollars in contracts from the clerk's office in exchange for contributions to Needelman's campaign, as arranged by a political consultant.

Needelman, 72, was found guilty at trial of those charges in 2017. As he awaited sentencing, a judge threw out his conviction due to a juror's misconduct, ordered a new trial, and granted his release from jail on bond in March 2018. Before Needelman could stand trial again, his attorney moved successfully in 2021 to have him declared mentally incompetent due to memory issues.

At a hearing in June 20, State Attorney William Scheiner presented a report from a neuropsychological evaluation of Needelman in March that found no significant mental issues including any that would prevent him from assisting in his defense. Circuit Judge Melissa Souto signed an order finding that Needelman "has been restored to competency."

"The State Attorney's Office remains committed to the pursuit of justice for all – in this case the citizens of Brevard County who were taken advantage of by the criminal conduct of Mr. Needelman," Mr. Scheiner said. "This ruling from Judge Souto will allow the prosecution of Mr. Needelman to move forward and, I hope, restore some of the public trust that was stolen by Mr Needelman and his co-conspirators."



Mitch Needelman

Young Shooter Convicted of Murder of Sanford Teenager

A 19-year-old from Sanford was sentenced to life in prison for shooting and killing another teen (a good kid) in an apartment parking lot where kids played.



Princeton Postell was one of two gunmen caught on doorbell video striding with handguns through the Stratford Point Apartments parking lot in Sanford then firing repeatedly from close range at the victim, 16-year-old Jamarcus Parker. Seminole County prosecutors Scott Wood and Richard Babcock tried and convicted Postell of first-degree premeditated murder in May and called for the life sentence at a hearing June 18.

In a victim impact statement read to the court, the victim's mother, Jamecia Parker, described Jamarcus Parker as a promising student-athlete with a 3.9 GPA who served as a role model and tutor to younger kids.

Prosecutors convicted Postell's co-defendant, Jackie Irving Jr., 20, of first-degree premeditated murder at trial in May. Irving was sentenced to natural life in prison.

'Career-Criminal:' Retail Thief Finally Convicted, Imprisoned

A career thief who stole cases of liquor from retail stores across Central Florida is finally going to prison after mostly getting away with it for years.

Delicia M. Hogan was sentenced to 20 years in prison followed by five years' probation in four Seminole County theft cases. Assistant State Attorney Anna Valentini made the case that Hogan should be sentenced as a habitual felony offender, and Circuit Judge Michael Rudisill agreed.

Hogan, 30, was associated with 79 retail "events" at Central Florida Walmart stores alone, costing the company more than \$57,700 by the time of her arrest in May 2024.

"She's the definition of a career criminal," Valentini said. "She just doesn't stop. We *all* pay for that, one way or another."

Hogan's undoing was her robbery of a Publix liquor store in Longwood in March 2024. Hogan made her way into an employee-only stockroom, grabbed a case of Patron tequila, and shoved a 74-year-old store clerk to the ground as she bolted for a rear emergency-exit door, breaking the worker's wrist.

No Deal for Titusville Molester

A Titusville man who sexually battered a seven-year-old family member dozens of times and repeatedly had sex with an 11-year-old babysitter faces life in prison without parole after prosecutors convicted him at trial.

Kristiane Calero, 44, confessed to the Titusville Police in 2022, but the State Attorney's Office made no plea offer. Instead, prosecutors Kerri-Ann McGuire and Jennifer Mostert proceeded to trial to pursue the strongest-possible conviction and sentence for the man.