



**State Attorney**  
**18th Judicial Circuit**  
Brevard and Seminole County



# The Monthly Brief

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State Attorney William Scheiner

## Stop unwanted calls

Tired of your phone buzzing with relentless robocalls and solicitations from shady call centers? Here's how to silence them, based on advice from the Federal Trade Commission, Florida's Attorney General and AARP.

### Register with Do Not Call (really)

Add both landline and cell numbers at [donotcall.gov](https://donotcall.gov) or call 1-888-382-1222 (free). Most legitimate telemarketers must stop within 31 days. Florida doubles down—violators face up to \$10,000 fines per call.

### Turn on phone blocking

- **iPhone:** Settings → Phone → Silence Unknown Callers
- **Android:** Phone app → Settings → Blocked numbers or Spam protection
- **Landline:** Ask your provider about free robocall blocking or buy a simple call blocker (AARP recommends CPR or Robokiller devices, \$50–\$90).

### Use free carrier tools

Verizon Call Filter, AT&T ActiveArmor, and T-Mobile Scam Shield all offer strong free tiers. Enable them in your account.

### Add a robocall app

Some top-rated picks: Nomorobo (VoIP landlines), Hiya, YouMail, or Truecaller (all have free basic versions).

### Never engage

Don't press 1 to "opt out" or talk to live scammers. Hang up immediately.

Try these five steps, and your phone should ring only for calls from people you actually know — not robots.

## Stay vigilant: Top scams of 2025

As holiday shopping picks up and the year draws to a close, here's a refresher on five of the most warned-about scams to hit Florida in 2025 – with quick tips to keep you safe.

### 1. Tech-support scams

Website pop-ups, texts, or calls from "Microsoft" or "Apple" claim your device is infected, urging remote access for them to make pricey fixes. Losses from stolen information and hacked accounts topped \$175 million just from seniors last year.

*Quick tip:* Ignore unsolicited alerts. Restart your computer and run your own antivirus scan.



Gemini AI image

### 2. Cryptocurrency and Bitcoin scams

Scammers "alert" victims that their bank or Amazon accounts have been compromised and urge them to withdraw savings and deposit cash in "secure" accounts via Bitcoin ATMs at convenience stores.

*Quick tip:* Call your bank directly. Never move savings to "protect" it.

### 3. Toll-agency "smishing" (SMS or text phishing)

Scammers send text messages warning of unpaid toll balances on SunPass and E-Pass accounts. Messages include

links that help them quickly take your money and card info.

*Quick tip:* Toll agencies don't send texts. Log into your online toll account to verify.

### 4. Employment scams

Phony job ads lead to scammers who demand fees for "training" or steal info for direct deposit. Remote-work cons especially have grown, AARP warns.

*Quick tip:* Check company sites directly. Legit employers don't charge applicants.

### 5. Declined-credit card scams

You click a link in a digital ad or email, landing on a legit-looking (but fake) e-commerce site. Your first attempt to pay prompts a "card declined" message. You try again or use a different card but get the same message. The scammer actually charges you both times while keeping your credit card numbers for more fraud.

*Quick tip:* Use credit cards, not debit, to make charge disputes easier. Scrutinize URLs before clicking.

# Law & Order News



## State Attorney's Office takes on new 'super speeder' cases

Prosecutors in Brevard and Seminole counties opened 105 cases in the first four months after Florida's new law against "super speeders" took effect. The law enhances penalties for drivers caught doing 100 mph or 50 mph over the speed limit.

Of those defendants, 37 were caught in Seminole County and 68 were arrested in Brevard.

Prosecutors officially filed charges in 23 cases with 68 cases still under review.

Of the 23 cases where charges were filed against alleged super speeders:

- 8 also include charges of racing on highways.
- 6 include charges of driving under the influence.
- 4 include charges of fleeing police.

Penalties include up to 30 days in jail plus a fine for first-time offenders or 90 days and a fine for a second offense.

## Prison for man who pulled gun on servers at beachside Taco Bell

A man who threatened Taco Bell servers with a gun in Satellite Beach after one asked him to speed up his order has been sentenced to seven years in prison.

BRIAN A. BAJANA, 41, was convicted in October of aggravated assault with a firearm and possession of a firearm by a felon by Brevard County prosecutors Nader Hatoum and Francis DeMuro.

One of the victims, a teenager working her first job, said she asked Bajana to pick up the pace with his drive-through order in June because other customers were backing up behind him. That's when he brandished the handgun and warned, "you don't know who you're messing with."

"The mere fact of pointing a firearm at a 17-year-old girl ... it scarred her for life," Hatoum said at the sentencing hearing.

## Man gets 50 years for killing former Cocoa councilman, teacher

A burglar who killed a popular former Cocoa city councilman and teacher during a home break-in in 2020 has been sentenced to 50 years in prison.

MATTHEW L. INKLEBARGER, 47, told a judge that he stabbed Jim Wallen to death during a skirmish after surprising Wallen in his garage during the burglary. Inklebarger's brief confession, was required as part of a plea agreement with the State Attorney's Office, which had charged him with first-degree murder.



Inklebarger instead pled guilty to second-degree murder, receiving the 50-year prison sentence followed by lifetime probation. He also pled guilty to theft and burglary of a dwelling, which brought a 15-year sentence to be served concurrently. Parole does not exist in Florida.

At his sentencing hearing, Wallen's family mourned the tragic death of a man who had served two terms on the Cocoa council in the 1980s; taught for decades at Kennedy Middle School, Brevard Community College and his church's Sunday school; and helped organize local events to benefit causes including children with Downs Syndrome. Wallen loved traveling the world with his wife, Lucinda, and spending time with family, his survivors said in victim-impact statements.

Assistant State Attorney Ann Perrin was prepared to present evidence at trial that proved Inklebarger's role in the murder and burglary. Cocoa Police arrested Inklebarger in August 2020 after his girlfriend was caught pawning Wallen's custom-engraved wedding ring for \$175 and quickly agreed to cooperate and testify. Police also found traces of Wallen's blood and DNA on his shoes.

## Sanford man sentenced to death for killing pregnant girlfriend

A Seminole County judge sentenced DONOVAN L. FAISON, 23, to death for killing his pregnant girlfriend and their unborn son after she refused to get an abortion.

Prosecutors convicted Faison at trial in October of first-degree murder with a firearm, killing an unborn child, and burglary with a firearm for shooting Kaylin Fiengo, 18, as she sat in her car at a Sanford park in 2022.

Prosecutor Stewart Stone urged jurors to "consider the cold, calculated, premeditated nature of this killing. This was an execution-style killing."

## Former Lake Mary High teacher guilty of sex crimes with student

A former Lake Mary High School teacher could spend life in prison after being convicted of sexual battery and other charges for his relationship with a 17-year-old student. RICHARD C. COLON, 57, will be sentenced Jan. 28.

Prosecutor Anna Valentini developed evidence that Colon's relationship with the minor started in 2024 with sexually charged messages and photos sent over Snapchat. Within months, the relationship advanced to sex at Colon's home in Sorrento, FL, and his classroom at Lake Mary High during a period when she didn't have class and he had no students.