



State Attorney
18th Judicial Circuit
Brevard and Seminole Counties



State Attorney William Scheiner

The Monthly Brief

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Floridians fall prey to scary jury duty scams

Florida law enforcement agencies are warning of an aggressive con that has targeted residents across the state and cost them their savings: the missed-jury duty scam.

How it works

Fraudsters posing as sheriff's deputies, federal marshals, or court officials call residents and claim that warrants have been issued for their arrest because they failed to report for jury duty.

To make the threat look real, scammers often spoof official law enforcement phone numbers on your caller ID and mention names of real local judges. They pump up the urgency, claiming you face immediate jail time unless you pay an administrative "fine" or "bail fee" right away, often by untraceable means such as prepaid Visa gift cards you buy at stores.

The pressure causes panic, leading victims to drain their savings accounts to resolve non-existent crises.

Three big, red flags

A phone call: If you *do* miss jury duty, the county clerk of court will contact you via U.S. mail to reschedule or require you to explain your absence. It won't call.

Threats of immediate arrest: Real police departments and sheriff's offices never call to warn anyone of imminent arrests (or they'd never catch anyone). Nor do they take bail money over the phone. Nor would they urge you to stay on the line and not speak to anyone while you drive to the bank to withdraw cash for them.

Demand for untraceable payment: No court or law enforcement agency demands payment by gift cards, prepaid debit cards, wire transfers, or cash deposits into Bitcoin machines.

Protect yourself

If you receive a suspicious or threatening call about missing jury duty, hang up and do not engage. Do not confirm any personal or financial information they mention.

If you want peace of mind, look up the official phone number for your county's clerk of courts or sheriff's office and call them directly to verify your status. Never use the phone number provided by the suspicious caller.

If you're targeted or scammed, report the incident to your police or sheriff's office.



This does NOT really happen: Sheriff's deputies never call to demand bail or fines for missing jury duty.

Never type commands to prove you're 'not a robot'

We've all clicked those familiar "I'm not a robot" checkboxes online without a second thought. But the Federal Trade Commission warns that scammers are using counterfeit CAPTCHA tests to trick users into manually installing malware on their own devices.

How it works

The scam typically begins when you land on a malicious website through a deceptive link, pop-up, or phishing email. A highly convincing verification screen pops up, looking exactly like a standard Google reCAPTCHA. But when you click it, a fake "error" message appears. The site then instructs you to follow a few quick troubleshooting steps to "fix" the verification. It asks you to press a key combination like: Windows + R, then Ctrl + V, then Enter.

Don't do it. If you do, the website automatically copies a malicious script of code to your computer's clipboard. Then, when you follow the keyboard prompts, you inadvertently open your system's command box and paste and run that malicious code that installs password-stealing malware.

Protect yourself

Never run keyboard commands: A legitimate system will never ask you to copy, paste, or execute commands on your operating system to verify you're human.

Verify the URL: Fake verification pages often live on strange, scrambled, or unofficial domains. Look closely at the browser address bar before interacting.

Use a password manager: These tools verify website URLs automatically. If your manager refuses to autofill your information on a page, consider it a red flag.

Law & Order News



Man admits to murdering four in Canaveral Groves; State Attorney will continue to seek death sentence

After studying scripture in jail, DOMENICO C. GIGANTE conceded state prosecutors' case against him and pleaded guilty Aug. 27 to murdering four people including his daughter in 2023.



Gigante

State Attorney William Scheiner said the state will continue to seek the death sentence for Gigante due to aggravating factors in his burglary and rampage shootings in Canaveral Groves. Because Gigante, 40, waived his right to a trial and a penalty hearing before a jury, Brevard County Circuit Judge Laura Moody alone will decide his sentence at a hearing in late October or early November.

In the early morning hours of March 1, 2023, Gigante broke into the house where his estranged 15-year-old daughter and his ex-partner lived with their new blended family. While they slept, Gigante fatally shot the daughter, her mother, her grandmother, and the mother's new roommate.

"I know what I did was evil and wrong," Gigante said at an August 27 plea hearing in Viera. "I'm here to get on my knees ... and for justice to be served for those affected by what I've done." He told Moody he understood that meant risking a death sentence.

Two prosecutors appointed to panel that nominates judges

Two veteran Seminole County prosecutors have been appointed to the Judicial Nominating Commission for the 18th Judicial Circuit.

Assistant State Attorneys **Jennie Hayes** and **Paul Brill** were selected by Gov. Ron DeSantis to serve on the nine-member body, which plays an important role in Florida's criminal and civil courts system. As commissioners, they will interview candidates for judicial vacancies in Brevard and Seminole counties and nominate finalists to the governor for appointment.

State Attorney William Scheiner applauded the appointments, saying: "Both prosecutors are experienced trial attorneys with deep understanding of Florida law, court procedures and the Constitution. They understand the need for strong, organized judges who will keep our communities safe from crime and fairly resolve civil disputes."

Hayes has worked for the State Attorney's Office for nearly 13 years including on its Career Criminal and Firearm-Crimes Unit for the past five. She is a graduate of the University of Central Florida and Stetson University College of Law in St. Petersburg.

Brill likewise has served as an Assistant State Attorney for nearly 13 years. Brill has served as a misdemeanor and felony trial attorney and now works with the early-resolution program. He is a graduate of Grace University in Omaha and the Barry University School of Law in Orlando.



Hayes



Brill

Fentanyl trafficker sentenced to nine years after Sanford bust

A drug dealer from Mount Dora has been sentenced to nine years in prison and a \$50,000 fine after Seminole County prosecutors convicted him of trafficking in fentanyl.

A jury found COREY W. DRIER, 31, guilty and designated him a habitual felony offender based on evidence presented by prosecutors Donavan Wagner and Richard Coln. That designation enabled Circuit Judge Melanie Chase to impose a tougher prison term at sentencing Aug. 3.

Drier was arrested in Sanford in June 2025 in a controlled-purchase sting set up by agents from the Seminole County Sheriff's Office. The agents had a confidential informant arrange to buy fentanyl from a local drug dealer who, in turn, arranged to get the drugs from his "boy." The dealer's supplier turned out to be Drier, who was arrested moments after driving to the dealer's home with the delivery.

Man sentenced to 25 years for Altamonte Springs stabbing

A 21-year-old man who attacked and stabbed the estranged husband of his girlfriend in Altamonte Springs has been sentenced to 25 years in prison.

A jury convicted BRYSON J. NACCI, 21, of attempted second-degree murder based on evidence and victim testimony presented by Assistant State Attorneys Jacob Polk, Tyrone Polk and Niko Smith.

Nacci claimed the husband, 56, threatened and shoved him in the driveway of the estranged couple's house, so he stabbed the man in self-defense with a large pocketknife. But Nacci also admitted that he had gone to that house earlier, in the middle of the night, and left a taunting note on the older man's car. Prosecutors said it was proof he intended to provoke a confrontation.