



FSA - Keeping You Safe

Tips and Signs to Avoid a Malware Attack

Malware is short for “malicious software” but it is not short on the amount of harm it can create, especially for mobile phone users. Even though over 70% of Americans are worried about having their personal data stolen from their computer, 2021 is estimated to see over 1.4 billion data breaches.

Fortunately for you and all of Florida, we work with incredible partners such as Attorney General Ashley Moody to constantly monitor scams like this. With the increased amount of mobile financial transactions, including mobile payment apps, downloading a malware attack is becoming more common.

The following tips will help you avoid mobile malware attacks:

- **Research** – Be sure you are **downloading safe apps**.
- **Solicitations** – Never respond to anyone who **reaches out to you** about financial information.
- **Direct Contact** – If a financial institution reaches out to you via text, email, or phone call, **stop and look up the company information** online and reach out to them directly.
- **Sending Money** – Only send money to **trusted and** verified individuals and businesses.

Think that you have malware on your phone? Here are some signs to watch out for:

- **Battery power** is rapidly decreasing.
- More than normal **data** is being used.
- **Unexplained apps** are appearing on your phone.
- **Unauthorized purchases** are originating from your phone.

For more information on these new malware attacks or to report a malware scam, contact the Attorney General’s Office at 1(866) 9NO-SCAM or file a complaint online at [MyFloridaLegal.com](https://www.myfloridalegal.com).

For more tips please visit the Florida Sheriffs Association’s Crime Prevention Tips: flsheriffs.org/crime-prevention.