



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

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COVID-19 CONSUMER PROTECTION NOTICE

In order to prevent yourself from becoming a victim of fraud, price gouging, and other types of scams which are being reported generally around the State of Mississippi during this time of the COVID-19 disaster, please remember the following:

1. Do not give out any personal information about yourself or others in your household if you are contacted by phone, e-mail or text which requests bank account numbers, dates of birth or social security numbers.
2. Stimulus checks: No one should call or text you to ask for personal information for you to receive a federal assistance/stimulus check.
3. Be aware of companies offering “assistance” to pay bills, which may in fact be loans.
4. There are no outside companies who have received approval to conduct “safety checks” for houses on the reservation related to COVID-19 so do not allow anyone to enter your home for this purpose.
5. The IRS and the Mississippi Department of Revenue do not call taxpayers to demand payment of taxes. Both agencies send payment notices by U.S. Mail, and they will only call you if you have attempted to communicate with them by phone and you have provided your number for them to return your call.
6. Price gouging related to COVID-19 may be reported to the Mississippi Attorney General’s Office Department of Consumer Protection by calling **1-601-359-3680**. Press “1” for the Consumer Protection office.
7. Identity theft may also be reported to the Mississippi Attorney General’s Office at the same number above. In addition, you can make a complaint to the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-382-4357, or online at <https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov>.
8. Official U.S. Census forms have already been mailed to households. These forms do not ask for Social Security or bank account numbers. Census forms will have a bar code on the address page. A letter and pre-paid return envelope will also be enclosed. Do not answer any questions if you receive an envelope containing a census form that does not include these items. You may instead complete your census at <https://my2020census.gov/>. If you complete the census online, do not mail in any census forms received at your home. Also be aware that if a census taker appears at your home, they must present government issued identification, and these persons will not ask for your Social Security or bank account numbers. If someone posing as a census worker asks these questions, you should immediately contact law enforcement to make a report.