



STATE OF FLORIDA

**ASHLEY MOODY
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

April 21, 2020

The Honorable Nicole "Nikki" Fried
Commissioner of Agriculture
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
PL-10, The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0800

RE: Concealed Carry Permits

Dear Commissioner Fried:

I write to inform you of recent litigation in Georgia, challenging reductions in that State's concealed carry application process. I have attached a copy of the complaint in that case, which the Plaintiff sought injunctive and other relief, for your review.

I understand from a recent announcement that your office has delayed processing concealed carry applications and limited the manner of submission for such applications. Such delay limits Floridians' ability to obtain a concealed carry permit for self-protection and increases the litigation risk to the State of Florida. I understand that it is likely more difficult for Floridians to obtain fingerprints. But, those difficulties would equally exist for mailed in applications, which your agency purports to still be accepting.

COVID-19 has required that many of our agencies reexamine how we conduct business to protect our employees and the public. I understand that this has been and will continue to be a challenge until the threat of this virus is contained. However, it is imperative that government continue to take actions that allow Floridians to feel safe and secure in these uncertain times, protect Floridians' constitutional rights, and avoid potential costly litigation that can easily be avoided. I request that you resume taking online applications, confirm that your agency is processing concealed carry permits and end any delay approving applications going forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ashley Moody".

Ashley Moody
Attorney General