
DATE: June 4, 2019

TO: Florida Law Enforcement Agencies

FROM: Richie C. Frederick, Chief **RF**
Division of Motorist Services, Bureau of Records

SUBJECT: Update to Memo Sent on May 2, 2019
New Florida Traffic Crash Sales Portal – www.FloridaCrashPortal.gov

On May 2, 2019, the department sent a memo to all law enforcement agencies indicating that effective July 1, 2019, it will launch a new public website, www.FloridaCrashPortal.gov for the purchase of official Florida Traffic Crash Reports online; as of July 1, 2019, the department will also discontinue providing any crash reports through the current online sales portal, www.buycrash.com.

The department has recently learned of false and misleading statements distributed to certain law enforcement agencies by staff of the current crash report vendor, LexisNexis Coplogic Solutions, Inc. (“LexisNexis”). Specifically, this communication stated that **“As of 7/1/19, the state of Florida will no longer be handling the dissemination of your agency’s crash reports and each individual agency throughout the state of Florida is now responsible for the distribution of their crash reports.”** These claims are both false and misleading. The department has asked LexisNexis to withdraw these statements and send a corrective statement to any law enforcement agency who may have received the false and misleading communication.

Section 316.066(1)(f), Florida Statutes, requires all crash reports to be submitted to the department. Accordingly, the department will continue its statutorily mandated obligation to collect and provide access to all Florida crash reports at the fee established by Section 321.23(2)(a), Florida Statutes. Additionally, the department will continue the current revenue policy, authorized by Section 321.23(3), Florida Statutes, of distributing \$5.00 to the investigating agency for reports sold online, provided that such reports are submitted to the department within 10 days of the crash. The only change is that the department will no longer use the current vendor, LexisNexis. The same access to Florida crash reports will continue to be available with the new web portal at www.FloridaCrashPortal.gov.

The communication from LexisNexis also indicated that it would have no choice but to **“start to mail individual requests, which can cause a great strain of resources for [a law enforcement agency].”** Again, this claim is both false and misleading. It is LexisNexis’s choice to pursue this strategy, rather than obtaining the reports directly from the department. LexisNexis’ attempt to threaten or scare law enforcement agencies for its own gain is not acceptable. The department has also asked LexisNexis to cease this strategy.

The department is ending the current contractual relationship with LexisNexis due to its serious and ongoing failures to adhere to the contractual terms and conditions as well as its failure to comply with the laws of the State of Florida. These failures left the department both unable and unwilling to continue the vendor relationship.

Law enforcement agencies should also be aware that the Attorney General intervened in (joined) a civil action under Florida's False Claims Act. A complete copy of this complaint and the Attorney General's intervention notice is attached.

The department remains committed to its statutorily mandated duties and responsibilities regarding the security of the personally identifiable information that it collects and maintains, and to continuing its partnerships with Florida law enforcement agencies; therefore, it is imperative that we respond to this false and misleading information. The department is also excited about the new web portal that it created along with the University of Florida and encourages law enforcement agencies to consider the transparency and other advantages of crash report sales made through the new portal.

If you have any questions concerning this information, please contact me directly at 850-617-2702 or RichieFrederick@flhsmv.gov. Likewise, if you have any questions concerning the Florida False Claims Act lawsuit, please contact Russell Kent, Special Counsel for Litigation to the Attorney General, at 850-414-3854 or Russell.Kent@myfloridalegal.com.