



STATE OF KANSAS
Tenth Judicial District

Steve Howe, District Attorney
White Collar Crime Division ~ Consumer Protection Division

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Steve Howe
(Olathe, KS)

Date: March 13, 2020

**JOHNSON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY WARNS RESIDENTS AGAINST PRICE
GOUGING AND CORONAVIRUS-RELATED SCAMS**

Johnson County District Attorney Steve Howe warns residents to be aware of scams and price gouging related to the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

Kansas Governor Laura Kelly declared a state of emergency on March 12, 2020. During a declared state of emergency, businesses in Kansas are prohibited from significantly raising prices of necessary goods or services. This includes consumer food and health items, as well as medical supplies and services. A 25 percent increase in the good or service as a result of the state of emergency declaration constitutes a violation of the Kansas Consumer Protection Act, K.S.A. 50-6,106 and K.S.A. 50-623 *et seq.*

The District Attorney's Office has already received reports of suspected price gouging of items such as disinfecting wipes. District Attorney Howe encourages residents who have observed a significant increase in pricing since the declared state of emergency to contact his consumer hotline at 913-715-3003.

The District Attorney's Office also encourages residents to be aware of scams related to COVID-19, including the sale of survival guides, natural remedies, or unapproved medical treatments. Fraudsters will exploit consumers' concerns during this time of uncertainty for their own financial benefit.

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