

# ATTORNEY GENERAL ALERT: HAVE YOU HEARD OF HEARING AID SCAMS?

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Attorney General Leslie Rutledge is warning consumers to be cautious of companies selling over-the-counter hearing aids, especially online or by mail order. Though hearing aids can be crucial for some Arkansans' daily lives, many devices that are being sold over the counter are not approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and are nothing more than poor quality sound amplifiers. Some unscrupulous companies have taken advantage of Arkansas consumers who need hearing aids by making false claims about the quality of the product and lying about its approval by the FDA.

"So many of our loved ones need hearing aids, including my wonderful mother-in-law, and it's despicable that companies are taking advantage of consumers," said Attorney General Leslie Rutledge. "This is an unacceptable business practice and if you have been a victim of deceptive trade practices, contact my office immediately."

Attorney General Rutledge has provided these tips for Arkansans who are looking to purchase an over-the-counter hearing device:

- The FDA has not approved over-the-counter hearing aids. Companies will deceptively state that they companies are "registered" implying they are approved or endorsed by the FDA.
- Consider getting a screening and opinion from a licensed hearing specialist.
- Research the hearing aid seller on the Better Business Bureau website or other impartial consumer review site.
- Always keep in mind, if the deal seems too good to be true, then it probably is.

If you have any questions, contact the Attorney General's Office at [ArkansasAG.gov](https://arkansasag.gov) or by emailing at [OAG@ArkansasAG.gov](mailto:OAG@ArkansasAG.gov).