

THE MORE YOU KNOW...

KNOWLEDGE TO COMBAT FRAUD SCHEMES

RECENT FRAUD NEWS:

WESTERN UNION FORFEITS \$586 MILLION IN SETTLEMENT WITH JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND FTC

On January 19, 2017, the Department of Justice announced that the Western Union Company (Western Union), a global money services business headquartered in Englewood, Colorado, entered into an agreement to forfeit \$586 million resulting from conduct investigated by the Justice Department, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), and the U.S. Attorney's Offices for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, the Central District of California, the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and the Southern District of Florida working with law enforcement agencies.

In its agreement with the Justice Department, Western Union admits to criminal violations including willfully failing to maintain an effective anti-money laundering (AML) program and aiding and abetting wire fraud. As part of the agreement, Western Union agreed to enhanced compliance obligations to better protect individuals using its services.

"The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania has a long history of prosecuting corrupt Western Union Agents," said U.S. Attorney Brandler. "Since 2001, our office, in conjunction with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, has charged and convicted 26 Western Union Agents in the United States and Canada who conspired with international fraudsters to defraud tens of thousands of U.S. residents via various forms of mass marketing schemes. I am gratified that the deferred prosecution agreement reached today with Western Union ensures that \$586 million will be available to compensate the many victims of these frauds."

As a reminder, do not wire money to a person who:

- ◆ You have never met;
- ◆ Says they are your relative and they are having a crisis—but they want you to keep it a secret;
- ◆ Says a money transfer is the only form of payment they accept, particularly if the other party is from a government organization; and/or
- ◆ Asks you to deposit a check and send some of the money back or elsewhere.

WANT TO REPORT A POSSIBLE FRAUD?

General Reports: Anti-Fraud Hotline (provided by the U.S. Senate Aging Commission)

1.855.303.9470 or www.aging.senate.gov/fraud-hotline

Telephone or online fraud scheme? Federal Trade Commission (877.FTC.Help), www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov or Internet Crime Complaint Center (www.ic3.gov)

Mail fraud scheme? United States Postal Inspection Service
1.717.257.2330 or www.postalinspectors.uspis.gov

Scheme involving money sent with GreenDot, MoneyGram or Western Union?
Green Dot: 1.866.795.7597
MoneyGram: 1.800.MONEYGRAM or 1.800.666.3947
Western Union Fraud Hotline: 1.800.448.1492