Elder Justice Cases

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
Civil Division	*U.S. v. Assured Collections LLC et al.*	4:23cv313	Civil	Healthcare Fraud	Christopher Parks, age 63, Christopher Noah Parks, age 31, and Stephen Miller, age 39, sent thousands of fraudulent debt collection notices on Assured Collections LLC and Assured Financial LLC letterhead to consumers nationwide, targeting veterans and older Americans. The letters demanded thousands of dollars in payment purportedly for medical devices that some consumers received for past medical procedures. The United States alleged that Defendants had no authority to collect any debt from those consumers and that the debts for which Defendants sought repayment were in many cases illusory — i.e., consumers did not actually owe the money, but many paid it anyway. https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/court-enjoins-fraudulent-medical-debt-collection-scheme-targeting-veterans-and-older	Permanent injunctions; Civil consent decrees entered into by the three Defendants	
Consumer Protection Branch	*U.S. v. Barbara Trickle*	2:23-CR-00015	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	One of three Defendants charged with conspiracy to commit mail fraud and wire fraud, mail fraud, and wire fraud in connection with an elder fraud mass-mailing scheme. Trickle, age 80, lasered, printed and mailed prize notification letters which indicated the recipient had been personally selected to receive a large cash prize, and would receive the prize if they paid a fee. Trickle also maintained a database that tracked victim responses. https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/nevada-printer-and-mailer-pleads-guilty-participating-elder-fraud-scheme	Guilty plea	
Consumer Protection Branch	*U.S. v. Dennis Anderson*	2:25-CR-449	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam; Psychic Fraud	Anderson was a lead list broker, who from as early as 2015 until at least March 2020, allegedly knowingly sold lists containing consumer names and contact information of mostly older Americans to Jamaican clients who perpetrate lottery fraud on older Americans. https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-highlights-enforcement-efforts-protecting-older-americans-transnational	Indictment	

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Consumer Protection Branch	*U.S. v. Frank Angelori*	2:25-CR-153	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Angelori is a lead list broker, who from as early as 2015 until at least March 2020, allegedly knowingly sold lists containing consumer names and contact information of mostly older Americans to Jamaican clients who perpetrate lottery fraud against older adults. https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-highlights-enforcement-efforts-protecting-older-americans-transnational	Indictment	
Consumer Protection Branch	*U.S. v. Jhonny Cepeda*	2:25-cr-00365-CCC	Criminal	Grandparent/ Relative in Distress Scam	Jhonny Cepeda was indicted with one count of wire fraud conspiracy on May 30, 2025, for his alleged role as a courier in a grandparent scam originating from the Dominican Republic.	Indictment	
Consumer Protection Branch	*U.S. v. Petitfrere*	0:24-cr-60080	Criminal	Romance Scam	One U.S.-based Defendant, Cristine Petitfrere, age 30, initially charged with conspiracy to commit money laundering for moving fraud proceeds for an overseas romance scam network. https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/florida-woman-sentenced-laundering-millions-dollars-romance-scams#:~:text=Cristine%20Petitfrere%2C%2030%2C%20of%20Miramar,her%20participation%20in%20the%20conspiracy.	30 months' imprisonment	
Consumer Protection Branch	*U.S. v. Sean Novis*	23-6925	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	On June 2, 2025, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the 2022 convictions of Sean Novis and Gary Denkberg in connection with their 2003-2016 sweepstakes prize fraud scheme. Original press release: https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/two-new-york-men-sentenced-operating-mass-mailing-fraud-scheme-targeting-elderly-and	Conviction affirmed	
Consumer Protection Branch	*U.S. v. Cutter Murray*	25-cr-20261	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam; Psychic Fraud	Money laundering charge related to the largest JOLT (Jamaican Operations Linked to Telemarketing) lottery fraud list broker in the United States. https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-highlights-enforcement-efforts-protecting-older-americans-transnational	Guilty plea	

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Consumer Protection Branch	*U.S. v. Troy Murray*	25-cr-20262	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam; Psychic Fraud	Troy Murray is the largest JOLT lottery fraud list broker in the United States. https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-highlights-enforcement-efforts-protecting-older-americans-transnational -	Guilty plea	
Consumer Protection Branch/USAO Florida, Southern	*U.S. v. Alcedo Mendoza*	1:21cr20328	Criminal	Business Impersonation Scam	Carla Magaly Alcedo Mendoza, age 43, and her co-conspirators in Peru allegedly used Internet-based telephone calls to contact Spanish-speaking individuals in the United States. These call centers falsely told victims, many of whom were older adults, they worked on behalf of universities, Hispanic help centers, and government entities and that the victims had been selected to receive financial assistance for English language programs. Alcedo Mendoza and her co-conspirators falsely claimed the victims were required to pay storage and other fees related to the materials. When victims refused to pay, Alcedo Mendoza and her co-conspirators pressured and extorted these victims, including by claiming they would be taken to court or even arrested if they failed to make payments. https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/peruvian-national-extradited-overseeing-call-center-threatened-and-defrauded-spanish	Indictment (Extradited from Peru)	
Consumer Protection Branch/USAO Florida, Southern	*U.S. v. David Cornejo Fernandez*	1:23cr20055	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam; Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	David Cornejo Fernandez, age 36, allegedly provided Internet-based telephone lines, caller-ID spoofing services, and recording capabilities to fraudulent call centers located in Peru. Posing as government officials, calls were placed primarily to older and vulnerable Spanish-speaking individuals in the United States using a sweepstakes scam to lure victims into sending money. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdfl/pr/peruvian-national-extradited-facilitating-peruvian-call-center-scheme-threatened-and	Indictment	

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Consumer Protection Branch/USAO Nevada	*U.S. v. Stamps et al.*	2:23cr15	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam; Psychic Fraud	Trickle, age 80, was the owner and operator of a printing and mailing business, who, along with co-conspirators, prepared and mailed millions of fraudulent prize notices that led their victims, many of whom were older adults, to believe that they had been individually selected to receive a large cash prize and would receive their prize if they paid a $20 to $50 fee. In reality, no victim ever received a large cash prize from Trickle or her co-conspirators. https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/nevada-printer-and-mailer-pleads-guilty-participating-elder-fraud-scheme	Guilty plea	
Consumer Protection Branch/USAO North Carolina, Western	*U.S. v. Stewart*	3:23cr173	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Stewart, age 40, led a lottery fraud scheme in which he and his co-conspirators targeted older victims in the United States. Victims were contacted by phone and falsely told that they had won money and other prizes in a sweepstakes or lottery. Victims were told they needed to send money to pay fees and taxes on their winnings. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdnc/pr/jamaican-citizen-sentenced-prison-connection-lottery-scheme	84 months' imprisonment; $1,104,041.74 restitution ordered	
USAO Alabama, Northern	*U.S. v. Pruitt*	2:24cr283	Criminal	Relative/ Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	Pruitt, age 47, devised a scheme to defraud an older family member by executing a power of attorney over the victim without the victim's knowledge or permission, becoming a joint account holder on the victim's bank accounts, changing the address on the victim's bank accounts from the victim's address to his own address, removing two payable on death (POD) beneficiaries from one of the accounts, and adding two POD beneficiaries to another account. Pruitt used some of these funds for his own personal benefit and he moved $500,000 to a new bank account that did not include the victim as an account holder. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndal/pr/bessemer-man-sentenced-more-four-years-prison-his-role-elder-fraud-scheme	50 months' imprisonment	

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USAO Alabama, Southern	*U.S. v. Brown et al.*	1:25cr28	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Peter Walcott, Malik Chambers, Romario Nembhard, and Jermaine Smith, all Jamaican nationals, allegedly received more than $200,000 in over 100 shipments of cash from victims across the country who had falsely been told that they had won a lottery. The victims, many of them older adults, had been directed to pay "taxes" on their lottery winnings by sending cash to fictitious names at addresses controlled by the Defendants in Baldwin County. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdal/pr/jamaican-nationals-arrested-lottery-scam-investigation	Charged	
USAO Alabama, Southern	*U.S. v. Garner*	1:24cr27	Criminal	Mail Theft; Identity Theft	Garner, age 41, stole checks from a 94-year-old woman's mailbox. Garner forged the stolen checks, which bore the older victim's personal and bank account information, and used the forged checks to buy more than $1,000 in merchandise at Walmart stores. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdal/pr/recidivist-fraudster-and-identity-thief-sentenced-more-three-years-federal-prison	39 months' imprisonment; 5 years supervised release; drug testing and treatment; mental health evaluation and treatment; credit restrictions; $1,034.65 restitution ordered; $200 special assessment fee	

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USAO Alabama, Southern	*U.S. v. Caruso*	2024-CR-119	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Shannon Caruso, age 48, was employed as a property manager by two different government housing authorities that provided affordable housing to low-income individuals, including older adults. Caruso admitted that while working for both housing authorities, she fraudulently convinced renters to make rent checks out to her or to give her their rent checks with the payee line left blank. Rather than depositing this rent money with her employer, Caruso stole the money for her own use. The two housing authorities absorbed the losses due to Caruso's theft and did not evict any of the renters who reasonably believed they were properly paying rent by giving their checks to Caruso. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdal/pr/low-income-housing-employee-sentenced-stealing-rent-money	14 months' imprisonment	
USAO Arizona	*U.S. v. Bellinfantie*	4:22cr523	Criminal	Romance Scam; Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Bellinfantie and his co-conspirators allegedly participated in a romance and sweepstakes scheme targeting an 85-year-old resident of Vail, Arizona. Using a fictitious name, Bellinfantie and his co-conspirators deceived the victim by leading her to believe she was engaged in a romantic relationship and also falsely represented to the victim that she had won a lottery or another monetary prize to induce her into sending them money to pay "taxes" or other "fees." Bellinfantie, a.k.a. "Ice Man," of Jamaica, was extradited to the United States to face charges. https://www.justice.gov/usao-az/pr/jamaican-national-extradited-united-states-participating-lottery-and-romance-scheme	Indictment (Extradited from Jamaica)	

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USAO Arizona	*U.S. v. Gehrke et al.*	2:24cr1040	Criminal	Healthcare Fraud	Gehrke, age 39, ran two companies, Apex Medical LLC and Viking Medical Consultants LLC, that contracted with medically untrained "sales representatives" to locate older patients, including hospice patients, who had wounds at any stage and order amniotic wound grafts from a specific graft distributor. The grafts were applied, whether or not medically necessary, by a company co-owned by Gehrke's husband, Jeffrey King, age 46. https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/arizona-couple-pleads-guilty-12b-health-care-fraud	Guilty plea. Gehrke and King ordered to pay restitution of $614,990,420 and $605,690,110, respectively; collectively forfeit over $410 million	Jeffrey King
USAO Arizona	*U.S. v. Walters*	CR-23-01158	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Walters, age 50, admitted that, between July 5, 2016, and August 15, 2020, she laundered over $300,000 in fraud proceeds, through her and her family members' bank accounts. The funds were fraudulently obtained from victims, many of them older, who sent the money under the belief they were paying fees associated with winning a lottery or sweepstakes, but which were scams. https://www.justice.gov/usao-az/pr/lottery-scam-money-launderer-pleads-guilty	Guilty plea	
USAO Arizona	*U.S. v. Kingsley Sebastian Ibhadore*	CR-22-01392-PHX-JJT	Criminal	Romance Scam	Ibhadore, age 40, served as a money mule involved in laundering fraud proceeds derived through a romance fraud scheme. https://www.justice.gov/usao-az/pr/phoenix-man-sentenced-prison-his-role-online-romance-scams	17 months' imprisonment	
USAO Arizona	*U.S. v. Diaz*	4:24cr4092	Criminal	Investment Scam; Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	While working as a financial advisor, Diaz, age 41, engaged in a scheme to defraud one of his older clients. To induce the victim into the scheme, Diaz falsely represented an investment opportunity in an "annuity" that "guaranteed" a 10% return. Between November 2020 and July 2022, to disguise his scheme, Diaz directed the victim to transfer $970,000 to Diaz's family members, money which was then directed back to Diaz for his personal use. https://www.justice.gov/usao-az/pr/former-morgan-stanley-financial-advisor-sentenced-prison-defrauding-his-elderly-client	41 months' imprisonment	

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USAO Arizona	*U.S. v. Jackson*	4:25cr2403	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Jackson, age 27, and others allegedly engaged in a fraud scheme targeting older victims in Arizona and throughout the United States. As part of the scheme, Jackson and his co-conspirators contacted victims, at times pretending to be federal agents, and informed them that they had won prizes, including cash and vehicles, but that they would have to pay fees or taxes to receive their winnings. https://www.justice.gov/usao-az/pr/jamaican-national-indicted-lottery-fraud-scheme-targeting-elderly	Indictment	
USAO California, Central	*U.S. v. Laub*	8:24cr133	Criminal	Relative/ Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	Laub, age 33, an Orange County Sheriff's Department employee, forged her 75-year-old grandmother's signature on more than 20 checks from her grandmother's bank account – making them payable to herself – without her grandmother's knowledge or permission. Laub then deposited these forged checks totaling approximately $45,000 into her own bank account. Laub also used her grandmother's credit cards and funds from other bank accounts without permission. https://www.justice.gov/usao-cdca/pr/orange-county-sheriffs-department-employee-pleads-guilty-fraudulently-using-her	Guilty plea	

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USAO California, Central	*U.S. v. Maximilian D'Habsburg*	2:24cr718	Criminal	Investment Scam	D'Habsburg, age 48, a.k.a. Sylvein Scalleone, claimed that he had artificial intelligence (AI) technology that could predict the future and detect a COVID-19 infection based solely on a video recording, among other things. D'Habsburg also falsely claimed to investors, primarily the local Filipino community, including many older church parishioners, that he had received approximately $500 million in investments for his companies from retired pro athletes and other noteworthy people, such as Kobe Bryant, Michael Jordan, and Steve Wozniak, and that he would use the investment funds to hire personnel and obtain patents. He used the funds to purchase luxury items for himself. https://www.justice.gov/usao-cdca/pr/san-fernando-valley-man-agrees-plead-guilty-engineering-59-million-ponzi-scheme	Guilty plea	
USAO California, Central	*U.S. v. Barber*	8:21cr196	Criminal	Investment Scam	Barber, age 45, ran fraudulent investment schemes involving real estate development projects, promising investors – many of them older adults – returns of up to 10% that would be generated through real estate deals that turned out to be bogus, and for disobeying a court order to surrender to federal authorities for violating the terms of his pretrial release. https://www.justice.gov/usao-cdca/pr/orange-county-man-sentenced-over-15-years-prison-house-flipping-investment-scam-raised	181 months' imprisonment	Louis Zimmerle

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USAO California, Central	*U.S. v. Verdzekov et al.*	2:25cr123	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam; Business Impersonation Scams	Verdzekov, age 38, and Lovert Che, age 44, allegedly created over 36 shell companies and opened over 145 bank accounts. The scheme involved targeting over 100 victims, many of whom were older persons, by contacting victims by phone calls and email pop-ups, and then posing as law enforcement personnel or employees with well-known companies falsely notifying victims of compromised accounts and the recommendation to move those funds into accounts for safe keeping, accounts controlled by the conspirators and who used those funds for personal expenses. https://www.justice.gov/usao-cdca/pr/two-southern-california-men-arrested-indictment-alleging-scheme-targeting-elderly	Indictment	Mustapha Nkachiwouo Selly Yamie
USAO California, Central	*U.S. v. Smith*	5:20cr120	Criminal	Investment Scam	Smith, Sr., age 61, used his client's trust in him to take advantage of his clients, the majority of which were older adults. Smith sold his clients on a bogus investment opportunity in "Northstar", telling investors that their investment would generate a fixed rate of return and was a “safe investment.” In fact, Smith never invested the money. Instead, Smith deposited all investor funds into a non-interest-bearing checking account. https://www.justice.gov/usao-cdca/pr/moreno-valley-man-sentenced-more-15-years-prison-ponzi-scheme-drew-more-24-million	188 months' imprisonment; $13,331,505 restitution ordered	

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USAO California, Central	*U.S. v. Jun Shi*	2:25-cr-00147-MRA	Criminal	Investment Scam; Pig Butchering Scam	Jun Shi, age 55, Mingzhi Li, age 24, a.k.a. "Zheng Lin," and Zeyue Jia, age 23, a.k.a. "Jiao Jiao Liu," allegedly operated unlicensed money transferring businesses used to funnel pig butchering scam proceeds overseas. Some scam efforts targeted older adults. https://www.justice.gov/usao-cdca/pr/three-Defendants-arrested-federal-complaints-alleging-they-knowingly-received-more-13#:~:text=SANTA%20ANA%2C%20California%20%E2%80%93%20Three%20individuals,known%20as%20%E2%80%9Cpig%20butchering.%E2%80%9D	Indictment	
USAO California, Central	*U.S. v. Benza*	2:24-cr-00751	Criminal	Grandparent/ Relative in Distress Scam	Benza pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud conspiracy for his role as a courier in a grandparent scam.	Guilty plea	
USAO California, Central	*U.S. v. Terrance Owens Elliott*	5:25-cr-00045-HDV	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Terrance Owens Elliott, a.k.a. "Tony Elliott," age 60, a pastor at a San Bernardino church and one-time political candidate, allegedly convinced the victim, a friend, to put her inheritance money into a trust in which Elliott appointed himself as a co-trustee. He then used funds from the trust for unauthorized expenses, including personal expenses. https://www.justice.gov/usao-cdca/pr/san-bernardino-church-pastor-and-ex-political-candidate-arrested-alleged-wire-fraud	Arrested	
USAO California, Eastern	*U.S. v. Nassar et al.*	2:25cr140	Criminal	Identity Theft	Ahmad Nassar, age 38, allegedly took over multiple bank accounts belonging to two older victims at two separate banks and was occasionally assisted by his brother-in-law, Ayman Alaaraj, age 48. Nassar employed sophisticated techniques to take over the victims' accounts such as porting over the phone number belonging to one victim. This allowed him to gain access to the accounts and defeat the banks' dual-factor authentication protections. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edca/pr/brothers-law-indicted-bank-takeover-scheme-and-aggravated-identity-theft	Indictment	

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USAO California, Eastern	*U.S. v. Liu*	1:25cr89	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	Liu, age 32, and other co-conspirators allegedly engaged in a scheme to launder proceeds derived from a government impersonation scam. Members of the conspiracy pretended to be federal law enforcement officers or employees when contacting target victims, some of whom were older adults. To seek money, the scammers provided false information about the victim's bank accounts, for example, by claiming that charges had been wrongfully filed against the victims and that their bank accounts would be frozen. Liu served as a money launderer in the fraud scheme. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edca/pr/chinese-national-indicted-money-laundering-conspiracy-connected-scam-impersonated	Indictment	
USAO California, Eastern	*U.S. v. Mims*	2:24cr269	Criminal	Relative/ Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement; Government Benefits Fraud	Mims, age 51, was a Certified Nurse Assistant and In-Home Support Services (IHSS) home healthcare provider. Mims provided IHSS care to an older woman who received monthly Social Security Administration (SSA) benefits. When the older woman passed away, her death was not reported to SSA and, as a result, SSA continued to direct deposit SSA benefits into her bank account. Mims had access to the deceased victim's checks, and forged the deceased victim's signature to obtain the deposited funds. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edca/pr/yuba-county-caregiver-pleads-guilty-stealing-more-155000-social-security-benefits	Guilty plea	

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USAO California, Northern	*U.S. v. Sherlyn Sims*	1:23-CR-192	Criminal	Romance Scam	Sherlyn Sims and her co-Defendants laundered fraud proceeds derived from romance scams and other schemes that targeted older adults. Original press release: https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndga/pr/zimbabwe-national-found-guilty-laundering-more-12-million	Sherlyn Sims: 46 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $1.35 million restitution ordered. Bright Eigbedion: 30 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $900,000 restitution ordered.	
USAO California, Southern	*U.S. v. Bhakta*	3:21cr3352	Criminal	Investment Scam	Bhakta, age 42, targeted friends, family members and close acquittances during the multi-year investment fraud scheme. Among the victims was Bhakta's elderly uncle, who was swindled out of $4.5 million. Through a trove of casino records, prosecutors demonstrated how Bhakta repeatedly took investors' money straight to casinos and gambled (and lost) millions of investor money. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdca/pr/san-diego-man-who-ran-35-million-securities-fraud-and-covid-relief-fraud-scheme	235 months' imprisonment	

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USAO California, Southern	*U.S. v. Austin et al.*	3:24cr2712	Criminal	Business Impersonation Scam	Gemma Traya Austin, a registered agent for PageTurner, and Michael Cris Traya Sordilla and Bryan Navales Tarosa, executives with Innocentrix Philippines, allegedly engaged in a book publishing scam. As part of the scam, the conspirators falsely represented that PageTurner was a book publishing business that worked with literary agents, major motion picture studios, and popular video streaming services, and that PageTurner acted as a liaison between individuals who sought to publish their books or have their books turned into motion pictures or television series. Older victims were falsely told that their works had been selected for acquisition by publishers or movie studios, and fraudulently convinced victims to send PageTurner payments for various services, including taxes and transaction fees. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdca/pr/three-indicted-and-internet-domain-seized-44-million-nationwide-book-publishing-scam	Indictment	
USAO California, Southern	*U.S. v. Arias*	3:22cr2745	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam; Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Arias, age 46, was engaged in money laundering. The conspiracy involved foreign scammers who contacted older victims in the United States by phone and, posing as United States government employees, tricked older adults into believing they had won a sweepstakes prize, but first they had to pay a fee or tax to release their winnings. Funds were sent to Arias' home in Fontana, California, who laundered the proceeds through his United States-based bank accounts. Arias received and transferred most of the ill-gotten gains to co-conspirators in Costa Rica, and in the process concealed the nature, source, location, ownership and control of the proceeds. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdca/pr/man-sentenced-sweepstakes-scam-targeting-elderly	41 months' imprisonment; $395,536.05 restitution ordered	

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USAO California, Southern	*U.S. v. Wang et al.*	24CR1317-RSH	Criminal	Technical Support Scam; Government Impersonation Scam	Zhao Wang, a.k.a. “Oscar”, age 40, Jiandong Chen, a.k.a. “Little Tiger”, age 40, Jun Li, age 40, Xin Wang, age 36, and Youfei, age 29, and their co-conspirators, allegedly operated a multinational organized fraud ring targeting older victims throughout the United States. The indictment alleges conspirators contacted victims through unsolicited pop-up ads, emails and phone calls designed to get older victims to contact scam call centers in India. After building trust with a victim based on fraudulent pretenses, the conspirators used technical support, government impersonation, bank impersonation and/or refund scams to induce victims to send money. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdca/pr/five-chinese-nationals-indicted-scamming-seniors-out-more-27-million	Indictment	
USAO Colorado	*U.S. v. Benallie*	1:23cr383	Criminal	Violence	Benallie, age 27, went to the nearby Ute Mountain Travel Center and approached an older Navajo man preparing to use the laundry facility. In an interaction that lasted about eighteen seconds, Benallie said, “Give me all your money” and pointed a 9mm gun at the man. When the older victim replied, "What money?" Benallie shot the older victim in the leg, sustaining serious and enduring injuries. https://www.justice.gov/usao-co/pr/attempted-robber-who-shot-elderly-man-ute-mountain-ute-reservation-sentenced-more-13	166 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release	

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USAO Colorado	*U.S. v. Reger*	1:21cr192	Criminal	Sale to Fraudsters of Targeted Lists of Names and Addresses; Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam; Psychic Fraud	Reger, age 57, and Lytle, age 64, were participants in a scheme that knowingly sold targeted lists of consumers and their addresses to perpetrators of fraud schemes involving the sending of false and deceptive mail to consumers, particularly older and vulnerable people. Evidence at trial showed that the Defendants used Epsilon Data Management LLC's algorithms to predict and sell lists of consumers most likely to respond to the fraud schemes' mailings. The Defendants' business unit worked with dozens of clients that sent scam letters promising large prizes or falsely personalized astrological mailings promising wealth. https://www.justice.gov/usao-co/pr/epsilon-senior-executive-and-sales-manager-both-sentenced-selling-data-millions-us	Reger: 120 months' imprisonment. Lytle: 48 months' imprisonment.	
USAO Connecticut	*U.S. v. Smith*	3:25cr50	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Smith, age 30, and others allegedly defrauded at least four victims residing in Connecticut, New York, Texas, and California, at least some of whom were older adults, by telling them they had won a Publishers Clearing House Sweepstakes and needed to pay taxes or money to claim the prize. Smith recruited others to use their bank accounts to deposit money that had been mailed by scam victims. Smith's co-conspirators then withdrew cash and gave it to Smith, or sent Smith money using bank transfer applications. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ct/pr/georgia-man-charged-operating-sweepstakes-scam	Indictment	Keshelski Bates

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Connecticut	*U.S. v. Osuji*	3:20cr111	Criminal	Business Email Compromise Scam	Bodunde, age 33, participated in a business email compromise scheme masterminded by his co-conspirator, Osuji. Osuji and his co-conspirators targeted specific individuals and businesses by masquerading as trustworthy entities in electronic communications to obtain money. They utilized unwitting and witting money mules to receive fraud proceeds in their bank accounts, and then transferred those funds to accounts under the control of Osuji and his co-conspirators. Bodunde's role in the scheme included the exploitation of older women through romance scams to serve as unwitting money mules. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ct/pr/nigerian-national-sentenced-prison-role-business-email-compromise-scheme	24 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $494,939 restitution ordered	Okechuckwu Valentine Osuji
USAO Connecticut	*U.S. v. Osuji*	3:20cr111	Criminal	Romance Scam; Business Email Compromise Scam; Money Mules	Osuji, age 39, and his co-conspirators targeted specific individuals and businesses by masquerading as trustworthy entities in electronic communications to obtain money. The scheme also involved romance scams targeting older adults as a method of recruiting unwitting money mules. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ct/pr/extradited-nigerian-national-sentenced-eight-years-prison-business-email-compromise	96 months' imprisonment; $6 million restitution ordered	John Wamuigah, Tolulope Bodunde
USAO Connecticut	*U.S. v. Discovery Bank Account Ending in 2237*	3:24cv840	Civil	Technical Support Scam	In February 2024, an older woman who was tricked by a computer support scheme that mimicked Microsoft customer support transferred approximately $550,000 to the scammers in two wire transfers. Within two days of the transfers, the victim and a family member reported the incident to the Simsbury Police Department, who then partnered with Homeland Security Investigations to investigate the crime. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ct/pr/us-attorneys-office-returns-328573-victim-computer-support-scam	$550,000 returned to victim (wire transfer reversed and seized the remaining amount)	

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USAO Connecticut	*U.S. v. Rosario-Canela*	3:22cr212	Criminal	Grandparent/ Relative in Distress Scam; Money Mule	Rosario-Canela, age 48, participated in a grandparent scam, a scheme in which fraudsters, who often live outside of the United States, contacted older victims in the United States by phone impersonating the victim's grandchild in distress, and induced the older victim to send money purportedly to help the grandchild. Rosario-Canela served as a money mule in the scheme. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ct/pr/grandparents-scam-participant-sentenced-prison	12 months' and 1 day imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $655,683 restitution ordered	
USAO Connecticut	*U.S. v. Coleman*	3:24cr36	Criminal	Theft or Fraud by a Handyman	Ivy was working for a retired older woman doing odd jobs, and began to steal checks from the victim's checkbook while in her home. After forging the victim's signature, Ivy gave the checks to Coleman, age 44, to deposit and Coleman also used the routing number and account number of the victim's bank account to arrange electronic fund transfers from the victim's account for his own benefit. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ct/pr/new-york-man-sentenced-prison-role-theft-retirees-bank-account	3 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $248,423.09 restitution ordered	Lamont Bethea, Gregory Ivy
USAO Connecticut	*U.S. v. Bellido Cosio et al.*	3:24cr67	Criminal	Identity Theft	Chaponan, age 60, and others rented vehicles to travel throughout the United States in order to steal wallets from unwary victims, typically older women, and then use the victims' credit and debit cards to purchase electronic devices and other items. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ct/pr/peruvian-national-involved-distraction-theft-and-identity-theft-scheme-sentenced-2-years	24 months' imprisonment	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Connecticut	*U.S. v. Vito*	3:24cr198	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Vito, age 45, was employed as a Medicaid Coordinator at an assisted living facility. Vito allegedly defrauded Company A and its residents by generating checks from Company A's system, forging a fellow employee's signature on the checks, negotiating the fraudulent checks purportedly to give the cash proceeds to certain residents, and keeping the cash for her own use. Vito then made false entries into Company A's accounting ledger by debiting the fraudulently obtained cash from the residents' respective trust accounts. Similar conduct is alleged to have occurred while Vito worked at her previous employer. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ct/pr/indictment-charges-waterbury-women-fraud-offenses	Indictment	
USAO Delaware	*U.S. v. Patel*	1:25cr46	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	Patel, age 36, who was in the United States illegally, conspired with others to defraud older victims in Delaware and throughout the country. The victims were contacted over the phone by fraudsters posing as federal agents, convincing each victim that they were the subject of a federal investigation. To cooperate with the fake federal investigation, the victims were instructed to liquidate their life savings and convert those savings into cash or gold bars. Patel, and others, served as couriers, collecting the cash and gold bars. https://www.justice.gov/usao-de/pr/indian-national-pleads-guilty-defrauding-elderly-victims-excess-2m	Guilty plea	

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USAO District of Columbia	*U.S. v. Te'Vaughn Brown*	2024CF2012212	Criminal	Violence	Te'Vaughn Brown, age 20, was indicted for an allegedly unprovoked attack on an older man at the Navy Yard Metro Station. As the older victim exited a train at the station, he encountered Brown sitting on the stairs leading from the platform to the mezzanine level. The victim attempted to maneuver around the Defendant to ascend the stairs when he suddenly felt Brown grab his leg. The Defendant proceeded to repeatedly punch the victim in his head and face before fleeing the scene. The victim was transported to the hospital, where he was treated for multiple injuries, including a fractured nasal bone, a broken tooth, a contusion on his scalp, and a laceration in the inside of his mouth that required twenty stitches. https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/district-man-indicted-felony-assault-senior-citizen-navy-yard-metro-station-prior	Indictment	
USAO District of Columbia	*U.S. v. Beverly Ochoa*	2024CF3009904	Criminal	Relative/ Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	Beverly Ochoa, age 30, was a paid caregiver for a man receiving hospice care. The patient's wife placed $2,600 in $100 bills inside a drawer so she could pay the other care provider later and left for a medical appointment. When the patient's wife returned later that day, the cash was missing from the drawer. The couple's family arrived at the home and reviewed in-home security camera footage. The video captured Ochoa retrieving something from the kitchen and placing it in her purse. Law enforcement found $2,600, in $100 bills, inside the Defendant's purse. https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/former-health-aide-worker-sentenced-stealing-family-dying-hospice-patient	12-month suspended sentence; 1 year supervised probation to include 40 hours of community service; 3 years supervised release suspended	

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USAO District of Columbia	*U.S. v. Anthony Braxton*	2020CF200 4254	Criminal	Violence	An older psychiatrist was responding to a call for assistance on his ward. As he was walking toward a colleague, a patient, Braxton, age 44, approached the older victim from behind and, totally unprovoked, punched the victim in the head, knocking him to the ground where he lay unconscious for several minutes. The older victim continues to deal with lingering symptoms from his injuries. https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/unprovoked-assault-psychiatrist-st-elizabeths-gets-man-13-year-prison-term	156 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release	
USAO District of Columbia	*U.S. v. Eleanor Flowers*	2021CF300 3697	Criminal	Violence	While attempting to change the soiled clothing of a 68-year-old patient under her care, Flowers, age 72, struck the patient repeatedly with the hospital bed's remote controller. The incident was captured on cellphone video by another Patient Sitter in the room. https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/former-united-medical-center-employee-sentenced-criminal-abuse-vulnerable-adult	24 months' probation; stay away order; prohibited from working with vulnerable persons	
USAO District of Columbia	*U.S. v. Travon Eliy*	2016CF300 4921	Criminal	Violence	Travon Eliy, a.k.a Travon Jackson, age 38, of Washington, D.C., committed robbery against an older woman, and when an older gentleman attempted to assist the older woman by pursuing Eliy, Eliy nonfatally shot the older gentleman behind an elementary school in a gun-free zone. https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/assault-two-senior-citizens-gets-dc-man-26-year-prison-term	312 months' imprisonment	
USAO District of Columbia	*U.S. v. Aaron Herndon*	2024CF300 4560	Criminal	Violence	An 87-year-old victim was purchasing gift cards from a McDonald's restaurant. Video footage from the restaurant shows Herndon approach the older victim from behind, as he was exiting the restroom, and reach into the victim's jacket pocket and take his wallet. Multiple witnesses observed Herndon flee on foot. https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/robber-pleads-guilty-stealing-87-year-olds-wallet-mcdonalds-nw-dc	Guilty plea	

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USAO District of Columbia	*U.S. v. Danielle Baltimore*	2024CF2008261	Criminal	Relative/ Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	While at Walmart, Baltimore, age 40, coerced the two vulnerable adults under her care into shoplifting items on her behalf. Baltimore placed items consisting of sneakers, clothing, and various merchandise in bags and gave the bags to the victims. Baltimore instructed the victims to exit Walmart without paying for the items. https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/disabilities-day-program-employee-sentenced-230-days-jail-exploiting-vulnerable-adults	230 days' imprisonment	
USAO Florida, Middle	*U.S. v. Patel*	8:23cr468	Criminal	Money Mule; Government Impersonation Scam	Pranav Patel, age 33, was involved in a fraud scheme targeting older adults. Conspirators involved in the scheme called from call centers abroad and fraudulently identified themselves as government agents such as officers from the United States Department of the Treasury. In some instances, the conspirators told victims that there were outstanding warrants for their arrest, and they needed to pay to clear the warrants. Patel served as a money mule in the fraud scheme, picking up fraud proceeds from victims. https://www.justice.gov/usao-mdfl/pr/new-jersey-man-sentenced-more-6-years-federal-prison-involvement-elder-fraud-scheme	75 months' imprisonment; $1,791,301 forfeiture	

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USAO Florida, Middle	*U.S. v. Patel*	8:24cr252/ 8:24mj1741	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam; Business Impersonation Scam	Viraj Patel, age 29, participated in a scheme in which conspirators placed telephone calls, usually from India, to victims, predominately older adults, in the United States, falsely identifying themselves as government officials or representatives of financial institutions and told the victims that their identities had been compromised and they needed to pay law enforcement officers, government officials, or financial institutions to fund fraud investigations. Patel's role was as a money mule who picked up money and gold from victims and transported it to co-conspirators. https://www.justice.gov/usao-mdfl/pr/money-mule-sentenced-federal-prison-laundering-proceeds-senior-citizens-victimized	3 years' and 10 months' imprisonment; $145,000 forfeiture	
USAO Florida, Northern	*U.S. v. Ronald Vargas, Lambert Aguebor, Grace Aguebor, Floyd Bostic, Sarina Levy*	4:24cr12	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Ronald Vargas, age 38, conspired with siblings Grace Aguebor, age 36, and Lambert Aguebor, age 33, as well as Floyd Bostic, age 42, and Sarina Levy, age 34, to steal retirement funds from primarily older retired Florida school district employees. Vargas, who worked for the company handling the retirement fund, conspired with the other Defendants to have fraudulent withdraw forms faxed to the company requesting that the victims' retirement funds be transferred to accounts controlled by members of the conspiracy. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndfl/pr/five-people-sentenced-fraud-and-identity-theft-targeting-elderly-retired-florida	Lambert Aguebor: 71 months' imprisonment. Floyd Bostic: 87 months' imprisonment. Grace Aguebor: 70 months' imprisonment. Ronald Vargas: 24 months' imprisonment. Sarina Levy: 6 months' imprisonment. All to pay $1 million in restitution and each to serve 3 years supervised release.	

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USAO Florida, Northern	*U.S. v. Alhassan et al.*	4:24cr10	Criminal	Romance Scam	Alhassan, age 35, Smith, age 26, Zuberu, age 39, and unknown individuals in Ghana engaged in a military romance scam in which they used telephone and online platforms to contact (usually) older victims in the United States and trick them into believing that they were involved in a romantic relationship, eventually persuading victims to send money. Smith and Alhassan served as money mules and Zuberu served as the intermediary between Smith and Alhassan and the unknown Ghana scammers. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndfl/pr/tallahassee-couple-and-ghanaian-man-sentenced-participating-ghana-based-romance-scam	Sadia Alhassan: 18 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $581,261.67 restitution ordered. Shawn William Smith: 1 day imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; 150 hours of community service; $581,261.67 restitution ordered. Mohammed Saaminu Zuberu: 5½ months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $581,261.67 restitution ordered.	
USAO Florida, Northern	*U.S. v. Sathawane, Atharva Shailesh*	1:25cr12/AW	Criminal	Investment Scam	While illegally in the United States, Sathawane allegedly was a courier in a substantial multi-state and likely-international elder fraud scheme. In less than four months, Sathawane participated in at least 34 separate "gold rushes" and retrieved or attempted to retrieve over $7 million in cash and gold from unsuspecting older victims. Sathawane was arrested on February 13, 2025, by local police when he attempted to pick up a second package of gold in Gainesville, Florida.	Arrested	

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USAO Florida, Northern	*U.S. v. Michael Scott Hillwig*	5:25cr1-MW	Criminal	Identity Theft	Hillwig allegedly entered various financial institutions and posed as an older customer of the financial institutions. In doing so, Hillwig withdrew and attempted to withdraw money from the victims' accounts. When asked for identification by the bank teller, Hillwig provided a counterfeit passport ID card in the name of the victim, but which contained Hillwig's photograph.	Indictment	
USAO Florida, Southern	*U.S. v. Graham*	1:25cr20103	Criminal	Relative/ Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement; Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Brett Thomas Graham, 61, began assisting his older family member after she became a widow in approximately 2017. In approximately November 2018, Graham assisted her with retaining a financial advisor headquartered in New York, New York. In approximately September 2019, Graham began transferring money from her accounts into his own checking account. Graham spent the money on himself. In approximately December 2020, Graham assumed the role of the family member’s power of attorney, by which he was obligated to act in her best interest. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdfl/pr/former-financier-pleads-guilty-defrauding-family-member-out-84-million	Guilty plea	
USAO Florida, Southern	*U.S. v. Kelly Augustine, Jr.*	1:24cr20140	Criminal	Inheritance Scam	Ogbata, age 36, and his co-conspirators created an inheritance scheme, writing letters to mostly older and vulnerable victims, informing them that, before they could receive their purported inheritance, they were required to send money for delivery fees, taxes and other payments to avoid questioning from government authorities. Victims who sent money never received any purported inheritance funds. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdfl/pr/nigerian-national-pleads-guilty-scheme-defrauded-more-400-us-victims	Guilty plea	Ezennia Peter Neboh, Kennedy Ikponmwosa, Emmanuel Samuel, Jerry Chucks Ozor, Iheanyichukwu Jonathan Abraham, Prince Amos Okey Ezemma

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USAO Florida, Southern	*U.S. v. Doman*	24-cr-60133	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Akiel Doman, age 34, and others repeatedly called older victims throughout the United States and falsely told them that they had won millions of dollars and often, a car, in a lottery, instructing victims that they needed to first pay fees or taxes to claim their winnings. Funds sent by victims were deposited into Doman's bank accounts. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdfl/pr/lottery-fraud-scheme-against-seniors-lands-south-florida-man-federal-prison	44 months' imprisonment; $234,995 restitution ordered	
USAO Florida, Southern	*U.S. v. Jose Alejandro Zuñiga Cano*	1:21cr20552	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	Zuñiga Cano, age 40, owned and operated a call center in Lima that placed unsolicited calls to Spanish-speaking consumers in the United States, many of whom were older adults. Zuñiga Cano and his co-conspirators impersonated lawyers, court officials, police officers and representatives of a supposed "minor crimes court" to intimidate victims and force them to send payments, and queried potential victims about their country of origin and threatened victims with court proceedings, arrest and immigration consequences if they did not pay. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdfl/pr/peruvian-national-sentenced-transnational-scheme-defraud-spanish-speaking-united	98 months' imprisonment; $700,000 restitution ordered	Henrry Milla, Carlos Espinoza, Jerson Renteria, Fernan Huerta, Omar Cuzcano, Evelyng Milla, Josmell Espinoza, Luis Rendon
USAO Florida, Southern	*U.S. v. Lamar Hamilton*	24cr20502-CMA	Criminal	Business Impersonation Scam; Identity Theft	The Defendant obtained funds through several fraudulent schemes involving an account takeover of a dormant Florida corporation and fraudulent credit card transactions for non-existent products and services.	Guilty verdict	

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USAO Florida, Southern	*U.S. v. Michael Gonzalez*	20-20125-Cr-Graham	Criminal	Business Impersonation Scam	Between 2018 and 2019, Michael Gonzalez, age 30, a Venezuelan national, directed his co-conspirators to open bank accounts in order to receive and withdraw hundreds of thousands of dollars sent by fraud victims around the country. The victims believed they were paying for goods and services they purchased via eBay, Booking.com, Airbnb, and other online marketplaces. Of course, the victims never actually received the goods and services, which included vintage automobiles, commercial vehicles, and short-term vacation rental homes.	21 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $149,510.01 restitution ordered; $100.00 special assessment fee	Manuel Samame, Leonardo Villa Lazo
USAO Georgia, Northern	*U.S. v. Matthew Ogboru*	1:24-CR-386	Criminal	Romance Scam	Matthew Ogboru and Stanley Bateren allegedly duped mostly older adults into believing that they would receive a considerable inheritance or that they needed to secure a box containing millions in cash for their online romantic partner.	Indictment	
USAO Georgia, Northern	*U.S. v. Mehta et al.*	1:21cr451	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	Pradip Parikh, age 67, and Alpesh Patel, age 40, participated in an India-based call center scam targeting Americans, many of whom were older Americans. The fraudsters typically identified themselves as Social Security Administration employees, telling the victims that their Social Security Numbers had been compromised in connection with criminal activity and promising to help "protect" their assets. Upon luring the victims to agree to this offer, the fraudsters directed the victims to send money to bank accounts controlled by Parikh, Patel, and other conspirators. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndga/pr/two-convicted-their-roles-multi-million-dollar-transnational-telephone-scam	Guilty verdict	

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USAO Georgia, Northern	*U.S. v. Daniels*	1:25cr99	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement; Identity Theft	Christina Daniels, age 47, used her position at the Social Security Administration office in Norcross, Georgia, to change the direct deposit information for approximately 28 beneficiaries. As a customer service representative, Daniels was able to make changes to beneficiaries' direct deposit information. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndga/pr/social-security-employee-pleads-guilty-stealing-benefits	Guilty plea	
USAO Georgia, Northern	*U.S. v. Ihimekpen et al.*	1:23cr192	Criminal	Romance Scam; Business Email Compromise Scam	Sherlyn Sims, a.k.a "Sherlyn Dzinzi," age 33, and her co-Defendants registered sham businesses, opened bank accounts connected with the businesses, and then duped fraud victims, some of whom were older adults, through romance scams and business email compromise scams, into depositing approximately $200,000 into these bank accounts. Fraud proceeds were quickly wired to China and other foreign countries, with Sims keeping some amount for herself. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndga/pr/zimbabwe-national-found-guilty-laundering-more-12-million	Guilty verdict	Bright Eigbedion, Presley Ihimekpen
USAO Georgia, Southern	*U.S. v. Cheung*	4:24cr86	Criminal	Technical Support Scam	Cheung, age 58, and other conspirators, allegedly contacted primarily older adults through phone calls or pop-up messages on their computers, falsely claiming that the victim's computer or financial accounts had been compromised. Victims then were persuaded to withdraw large sums of money, purchase gift cards, or buy gold bars to deliver to a conspirator for safekeeping by a government agency. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdga/pr/wire-fraud-extortion-indictment-highlights-dangers-elder-fraud	Indictment	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Idaho	*U.S. v. Dougherty*	1:22cr168	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	James Dougherty, age 44, and his wife, Jessica Dougherty, age 43, moved onto an older victim's property to provide assistance with the ranch. James Dougherty gained control of the older victim’s finances, including being named as the victim’s power of attorney for finances. A trust was executed, ostensibly signed by the victim, naming James and Jessica Dougherty as primary beneficiaries of the victim’s estate, including the ranch, and naming James Dougherty as successor trustee. Jessica Dougherty caused records relevant to the investigation to be destroyed. https://www.justice.gov/usao-id/pr/husband-and-wife-sentenced-defrauding-elderly-victim-out-her-home-and-obstruction	James Dougherty: 41 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release. Jessica Dougherty: 3 years' probation.	
USAO Illinois, Central	*U.S. v. Chelemen*	3:23cr30038	Criminal	Grandparent/ Relative in Distress Scam	Chelemen, age 38, participated in a fraud scheme with co-conspirators operating in Canada who called older individuals throughout the United States portraying themselves as young loved ones who had been arrested and needed money for bond or a lawyer. Once a victim agreed to provide the funds for their loved one’s release from jail, Chelemen, acting as a bail bondsman/courier, arrived at their address for the purpose of picking up the funds. https://www.justice.gov/usao-cdil/pr/canadian-national-sentenced-50-months-imprisonment-conspiracy-commit-wire-fraud	50 months’ imprisonment; 2 years supervised release; $460,350 restitution ordered	

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USAO Illinois, Central	*U.S. v. Campen*	1:22cr10002	Criminal	Investment Scam	Campen, age 35, pretended to be engaged in various business ventures ranging from farming to the construction of a solar farm. Via this elaborate scheme, Campen obtained loans from multiple banks using each fraudulent loan to not only enrich himself but also to pay off his previous victims. Campen's eight-year fraud spree also involved families and older adults who put their trust in him. https://www.justice.gov/usao-cdil/pr/peoria-man-sentenced-more-11-years-prison-multi-year-fraud-scheme	135 months' imprisonment	Richard Weiss
USAO Illinois, Northern	*U.S. v. Diamond*	1:17cr332	Criminal	Home Construction, Repair, or Renovation Scam	Mark Steven Diamond, age 68, schemed with others to induce mostly older homeowners to unwittingly obtain reverse mortgage loans to pay for purported home repairs that Diamond offered to perform. Diamond and the co-schemers targeted older victims in the Chicago area based on the amount of equity in their homes and their relative lack of financial sophistication. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndil/pr/chicago-businessman-sentenced-more-17-years-prison-bilking-elderly-homeowners-reverse	205 months' imprisonment; $2.7 million restitution ordered	
USAO Illinois, Northern	*U.S. v. Kenneth Haywood*	24 CR 404	Criminal	Investment Scam	Haywood, an investment advisor, solicited approximately $125,000 from a 70-year old widow. Haywood pitched himself as an investment advisor, but instead of investing the victim's money, the Defendant spent it on personal expenses and lied to the victim about it, depleting all of the victim's retirement funds in less than three months.	15 months' imprisonment	

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USAO Illinois, Northern	*U.S. v. Raymond Echavez Villamor*	24 CR 215	Criminal	Investment Scam	Villamor, age 60, was a California-based investment agent who solicited an investment from an Illinois resident who used his family funds meant to support his elderly and sick father. Villamor misappropriated the victim's money to pay for personal expenses, including vehicle purchases. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndil/pr/california-man-indicted-federal-fraud-charges-allegedly-swindling-suburban-chicago	Guilty plea	
USAO Illinois, Southern	*U.S. v. Patel*	3:23cr30076	Criminal	Business Impersonation Scam; Government Impersonation Scam; Money Mule	Nirav B. Patel, age 44, an illegal immigrant from India, participated in a scheme that targeted older victims with text messages and emails purportedly warning that their Amazon accounts had been compromised. When the victims followed up on the messages, they were redirected to scammers posing as federal agents who convinced the victims that they were victims of identity theft who needed to withdraw their life savings to be held in phony United States Treasury or Federal Trade Commission trust accounts for safekeeping. Patel traveled to the older victims' residences to pick up cash and assets. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdil/pr/illegal-immigrant-gets-12-years-prison-his-part-india-based-fraud-targeting-elderly	144 months' imprisonment	
USAO Illinois, Southern	*U.S. v. Uzokpa*	4:23cr40005	Criminal	Romance Scam	Uzokpa, age 28, and uncharged co-conspirators conducted a scheme to obtain money and other assets belonging to his victims, older and disabled women, by developing personal, romantic relationships under false pretenses to gain their trust. Uzokpa then used other United States-based women as money mules to collect funds from the victims and transfer the funds to him in Nigeria. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdil/pr/nigerian-national-sentenced-federal-prison-defrauding-seniors-through-manipulation	84 months' imprisonment; $329,470 restitution ordered	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Illinois, Southern	*U.S. v. Stief*	4:24cr40043	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Stief, age 41, allegedly convinced the older victim to appoint Stief as his financial and healthcare power of attorney in May 2023. In October 2023, Stief persuaded the victim to leave a nursing home facility and move into his full-time care. Stief was a signatory on the victim's bank accounts, talked the victim into cashing out life insurance policies and deposited most of the victim's money into Stief's personal bank accounts. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdil/pr/effingham-county-man-accused-financial-exploitation-elder	Indictment	
USAO Illinois, Southern	*U.S. v. Aboseada*	3:23cr30077	Criminal	Relative/ Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	Aboseada, age 39, convinced her grandmother to wire money into her bank account under false pretenses on at least 12 occasions between November 2021 and August 2022. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdil/pr/florida-woman-sentenced-prison-financially-exploiting-her-grandmother	3 years' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $317,049 restitution ordered	
USAO Illinois, Southern	*U.S. v. Christopher Jones*	25-CR-30005	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Credit union employee allegedly targeted older customers with inactive accounts and withdrew funds from their account.	Indictment	
USAO Illinois, Southern	*U.S. v. Ridam Bhatol*	25-cr-30043	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	Three Defendants allegedly conspired to execute a scam and pick up gold and cash from older victims' homes. Other victims throughout the Midwest have been identified.	Indictment	
USAO Indiana, Northern	*U.S. v. Sania Khan*	1:25-cr-33	Criminal	Healthcare Fraud	The indictment alleges that the Defendant engaged in a scheme to defraud Medicare and Indiana Medicaid by seeking reimbursement for medication that was administered as "sample" doses, and thus not reimbursable.	Indictment	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Indiana, Southern	*U.S. v. Fields*	1:24cr92	Criminal	Government Benefits Fraud	Fields, age 70, was her husband's representative payee. For over a decade after her husband's death, Fields continued to misrepresent herself as her husband's representative payee. Fields brazenly stole not only from the United States government, but also indirectly from taxpayers who diligently pay into the Social Security retirement fund, and indirectly preyed on the vulnerable, older beneficiaries who ultimately depend on the program's payments upon their retirement from the workforce. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdin/pr/kokomo-woman-ordered-federal-court-repay-over-200000-stolen-retirement-benefits	3 years' probation; $231,203.10 restitution ordered	
USAO Indiana, Southern	*U.S. v. Mohammed*	1:24cr145	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	Mohammed, age 31, and other conspirators allegedly participated in a scheme in which conspirators contacted victims, typically older adults, and claimed to be a government agent. The conspirators falsely represented that the victims had been compromised in some way and instructed victims to convert their savings and retirement accounts to cash or gold bars, and to provide those funds to law enforcement for "protection." https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdin/pr/illinois-man-charged-helping-scam-elderly-victims-out-hundreds-thousands-dollars	Indictment	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Indiana, Southern	*U.S. v. Brenda Walters*	1:25-cr-0098	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	The Shepherd's Center of Hamilton County's Guardianship program serves as a court-appointed legal guardian for incapacitated adults. Brenda Denise Walters was hired as the bookkeeper in August of 2023. As early as October 2023, Walters allegedly began transferring funds from the accounts of incapacitated adults to her personal accounts, as well as paying her personal bills from the accounts. Walters falsified the financial statements, which were then reported to the court. Walters stole over $80,000 from the accounts of incapacitated adults by the time she was fired in August 2024.	Indictment	
USAO Iowa, Southern	*U.S. v. Berg*	4:24cr28	Criminal	Investment Scam	Berg, age 52, defrauded older victims by purporting to be a financial advisor. Over an eight-year period, Berg deceived victims to invest in companies he created and controlled. To further his fraud, Berg provided his victims with fictitious investment agreements, account statements, and created a website for one of the purported investment companies. Berg spent the victim's money for his own personal expenses. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdia/pr/waukee-man-sentenced-nine-years-federal-prison-wire-fraud-and-money-laundering	108 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $1.6 million restitution ordered	
USAO Kentucky, Eastern	*U.S. v. Hall*	3:24cr6	Criminal	Medication Theft	Hall, age 51, worked as a contract registered nurse at several facilities in Kentucky that focused on care for older and infirm adults. Hall took morphine that had been prescribed for three patients that she was treating at the healthcare facility, all of whom had significant disease and pain concerns. Hall replaced the stolen morphine with water and blue food coloring to resemble the real medication. Ultimately, Hall took at least seven syringes of stolen morphine and administered the tampered morphine to one of the patients. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edky/pr/former-nurse-sentenced-tampering-medication	60 months' imprisonment	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Kentucky, Eastern	*U.S. v. Nezar Falluji*	5:23-cv-15	Civil	Healthcare Fraud	Action was brought against Nezar Falluji, M.D., a cardiologist practicing at CHI Saint Joseph Hospital in Lexington. The Relator - an interventional cardiologist at CHI Saint Joseph Hospital - alleges that Dr. Falluji performed medically unnecessary balloon aortic valvuloplasty and peripheral artery interventions from at least January 2017 through September 2022.	Qui Tam Action	
USAO Kentucky, Eastern	*U.S. v. Michelle Irene Fike*	5:24-CR-01	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Fike, age 56, was hired through an accounting firm to manage finances and pay bills for Jane McCready, a 75-year-old former Kentucky resident. After becoming aware of some red flags, McCready's daughter reviewed spending activity on McCready's credit cards and observed a number of unauthorized purchases, including charges for tuition at colleges at which Fike's children attend and a substantial number of internet merchandise purchases. Fike concealed these expenditures by doctoring QuickBooks reports and balance statements that she provided to McCready and her children as part of this arrangement. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edky/pr/clark-county-woman-sentenced-wire-fraud-and-aggravated-identity-theft	36 months' imprisonment; $405,867.08 restitution ordered	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Kentucky, Eastern	*U.S. v. Isaac Kahan*	5:25-cv-24-GFVT	Criminal	Technical Support Scam	An older victim experienced a tech support scam in which a pop-up appeared on her screen alerting her to stop trying to login to her account and to call a specified phone number. She spoke with someone purporting to be with Vanguard and gave him access to her computer, and was then informed that she had been hacked, had a virus on her computer, and all her accounts were compromised. Then, someone purporting to work for Fifth Third Bank called her, stating she had pre-authorized charges from Amazon and Pornhub, and to protect her money, she was allegedly instructed to withdraw $38,000 in cash and purchase bitcoin with it, which she did. The FBI has seized the money sent by two victims from the gold company's bank accounts.	Complaint	
USAO Kentucky, Eastern	*U.S. v. Charles Emesim*	6:25-CR-00012	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	The Defendant allegedly impersonated a government agent with a victim in the Eastern District of Kentucky, under the guise of helping her to receive $9.2 million from her boyfriend in Libya. The Defendant received fraud proceeds from this victim, as well as dozens of other victims. He then laundered the funds and forwarded the profits to co-conspirators or retained for his own benefit.	Indictment	
USAO Kentucky, Western	*U.S. v. Sanchez et al.*	3:22cr14	Criminal	Grandparent/ Relative in Distress Scam	As part of a Canadian-based call center scheme to convince older victims that their grandchild or other family member had an emergency, usually a car accident, and urgently needed money from the victim, Sanchez, age 57, served as a courier who would collect cash from victims at home and others would launder the criminal proceeds, through both traditional banks and cryptocurrency exchanges. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdky/pr/new-mexico-man-fifth-defendant-sentenced-grandparent-scam-targeted-kentucky-victims	18 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release	Jairo Ostia Roberts, Panama Abel Diaz Adames, Christopher Courcoulacos, Mark Anthony Phillips

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Kentucky, Western	*U.S. v. Sanchez et al.*	3:22cr14	Criminal	Grandparent/ Relative in Distress Scam	Phillipe Gravel-Nadon, age 35, a Canadian citizen, was considered a "manager or supervisor" within the conspiracy in which callers would convince older victims that their grandchild or other family member had an emergency, usually a car accident, and urgently needed money from the victim. Co-conspirators posing as "couriers" would then collect cash from victims at home and others would launder the criminal proceeds, through both traditional banks and cryptocurrency exchanges. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdky/pr/canadian-man-sixth-and-final-defendant-sentenced-grandparent-scam-targeted-kentucky	61 months' imprisonment; 2 years supervised release; $963,290 restitution ordered	Robert Louis Sanchez, Jairo Ostia Roberts, Panama Abel Diaz Adames, Christopher Courcoulacos, Mark Anthony Phillips
USAO Kentucky, Western	*U.S. v. Upton et al.*	5:19cr53	Criminal	Affinity Fraud	Upton, age 58, was the pastor at Crofton Pentecostal Church. During the years 2013 to 2016, Upton defrauded one of his older parishioners who suffered from dementia. During that same time period, Upton also submitted multiple false tax returns which omitted income from the fraud scheme. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdky/pr/former-crofton-pastor-sentenced-over-two-years-federal-prison-fraud-and-tax-offenses	27 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $500,000 restitution ordered; $222,037 restitution to the IRS	
USAO Louisiana, Eastern	*U.S. v. Ye*	2:23cr266	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	Ye, age 29, traveled from Houston, Texas, to a residence in Covington, Louisiana, to collect approximately $34,500 from the older victim of a government impersonation scam. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edla/pr/houston-man-sentenced-18-months-imprisonment-making-false-statements	18 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $100 special assessment fee	

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USAO Louisiana, Middle	*U.S. v. Dean et al.*	3:23cv19	Civil	Healthcare Fraud	The United States alleged that in the five years leading up to Hurricane Ida, Dean funneled money that should have been used to prepare an evacuation site for nursing home residents to his personal bank accounts, leaving his nursing homes — and, more importantly, the nursing homes' residents — unprepared for a hurricane. https://www.justice.gov/usao-mdla/pr/bob-dean-jr-and-affiliated-corporate-entities-agree-82m-consent-judgment-resolve	$8.2 million consent judgment	
USAO Louisiana, Middle	*U.S. v. Paris Haynes*	25-cr-64-jwd-sdj	Criminal	COVID-19-Related Fraud	Paris Lashay Haynes, age 28, a Louisiana Workforce Commission employee, diverted unemployment insurance funds to herself at the expense of others, including many older adults. https://www.justice.gov/usao-mdla/pr/former-employee-louisiana-workforce-commission-pleads-guilty-wire-fraud	Guilty plea	
USAO Louisiana, Western	*U.S. v. Glass et al.*	5:24cr87	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Destane Glass, age 24, was the ringleader who conspired with employees of a call center to execute a scheme to defraud USAA Bank customers. Glass worked with her co-Defendants to improperly obtain account holder information so that the information could be used by Glass to create counterfeit USAA Bank checks. She instructed her co-Defendants to target older bank customers whose bank accounts held high account balances as they would be less likely to regularly check their accounts. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdla/pr/ringleader-bank-fraud-conspiracy-case-receives-lengthy-federal-prison-sentence	135 months' imprisonment (sentence to run consecutive to a 37-month federal prison sentence currently serving for Payment Protection Program fraud, for a total of 172 months' imprisonment); $539,578 restitution ordered	ZarRajah Z. Watkins

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USAO Louisiana, Western	*U.S. v. Glass et al.*	5:24cr87	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Brown, age 24, along with other co-conspirators, was part of a scheme targeting older bank customers. Gully, Green, and Watkins worked at Teleperformance, a multinational company that provided business services, including a call center, in which the conspirators had access to customer bank account information and used that information to create counterfeit checks and also were paid to provide the account information to co-conspirators, including Brown. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdla/pr/defendant-convicted-bank-fraud-conspiracy-case-receives-sentence-federal-court	63 months' imprisonment (to run consecutive to a 42-month federal prison sentence currently being served for a total of 105 months' imprisonment); $1,254,790 restitution ordered	Destane Glass, Sharmaine Jackson, ZarRajah Z. Watkins, Arazhia R. Gully, Eric D. Loud, Maya L. Green, Olivia M. Deboe, Donte N. Larrimore, Shamaya S. Pouncy, Precious Wilbert, Cynthia R. Bryant, Trameka McGinty, Shaquentalas B. McGinty, Javonte J. Lejay, Octavia L. Mitchell, Shmarrian J. Taylor, Rakeydra S. Shepherd, Tina Marie Bryant, Lakysa S. Barfield, Kyra D. Washington-Bates

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Louisiana, Western	*U.S. v. Patel*	1:23cr260	Criminal	Technical Support Scam; Money Mule	Patel, age 34, worked as a courier in a tech support scheme to defraud older adults. Older adults were instructed on their computer screen to call the helpline. In one case, the older adult was told that their Social Security Number had been compromised and they needed to liquidate their bank account, buy gold bullion, and then transfer that gold bullion to a federal agent. On October 7, 2023, Patel flew from Boston to New Orleans, rented a car, and drove to the victim's residence to retrieve the gold bullion. The victim had been instructed by Patel's co-conspirator in India to place the gold bullion into the backseat of Patel's rental car. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdla/pr/resident-new-hampshire-sentenced-involvement-online-scheme-defraud-elderly	51 months' imprisonment	
USAO Louisiana, Western	*U.S. v. Diego Rivera Zayas*	25-cr-00048	Criminal	Violence	Defendant (in his 40s) and victim (in his 80s) were standing in line at a pharmacy on an army military base located in Fort Johnson, Louisiana. The Defendant cut in line, and when confronted by the victim, Defendant shoved the victim backwards. The victim fell backwards into a chair resulting in rib fractures and pneumothorax.	Indictment	
USAO Maryland	*U.S. v. Warrior*	1:23cr299	Criminal	Romance Scam; Business Email Compromise Scam; Investment Scam	Warrior, age 44, served as an unlicensed money transmitter in connection with various romance, business email compromise, and investment schemes, many targeting older adults. Warrior received victims' funds and transferred them to other scheme participants through federally insured financial institutions in exchange for a percentage. Warrior opened personal and business bank accounts and formed the limited liability company, The Golden Voice of Orientals, to conduct, control, manage, and direct his unlicensed money transmitting business. https://www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/baltimore-county-man-sentenced-federal-prison-role-elder-fraud-schemes	42 months' imprisonment	

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USAO Maryland	*U.S. v. Ahuja et al.*	1:24cr230	Criminal	Technical Support Scam	Ahuja, age 40, allegedly was part of a technical support scheme where victims, many of whom were older adults, were made to believe that their computers had been compromised by a virus, or were susceptible to hacking, and payments were needed for computer repair services or software. https://www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/three-men-indicted-involvement-35-million-dollar-elder-fraud-scheme-impacting-more-1000	Indictment	Kapil Gulati, Priyanshu Walia
USAO Maryland	*U.S. v. Henry et al.*	1:24cr4	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Campbell, age 29, and co-conspirators allegedly contacted victims, many of whom were older, by mail or over the phone and convinced them that they had won millions of dollars in a lottery or sweepstakes but were required to send payment in advance for taxes and other fees before they could receive their winnings. The Defendants and other conspirators caused the victims to send payments for the purported taxes and other fees through wire transfer, by gift card, by sending cash and by other payment methods. https://www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/jamaican-national-indicted-alleged-lottery-scheme-defrauded-victims-more-95-million	Indictment	Wayne Henry, Dwayne Henry, Tavoy Farquharson
USAO Maryland	*U.S. v. Henry et al.*	1:24cr4	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Farquharson, age 32, and his co-conspirators allegedly contacted the victims, many of whom were older, by mail or over the phone and convinced them that they had won millions of dollars in a lottery or sweepstakes but were required to send payment in advance for taxes and other fees before they could receive their winnings. Farquharson and his co-conspirators caused the victims to send payments for the purported taxes and other fees through wire transfer, by gift card, or by sending cash or checks. https://www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/jamaican-national-faces-federal-charge-alleged-lottery-scheme-defrauded-victims-more-95	Complaint	Wayne Henry, Dwayne Henry, Nickoy Campbell

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USAO Maryland	*U.S. v. Lawal*	1:23cr373	Criminal	Identity Theft	Lawal, age 34, participated in and executed a stolen identity tax refund fraud scheme to obtain fraudulent tax refunds using the identities of older victims, then load those refunds onto debit cards tied to bank accounts opened in the victims' names, sent those cards to secure known addresses throughout the United States, and finally withdraw those refunds in cash. https://www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/baltimore-man-sentenced-60-months-federal-prison-access-device-fraud-and-aggravated	60 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release	
USAO Maryland	*U.S. v. All USDT tokens associated with the virtual currency address 0xa8d106387F639301f6edE90Ca7484408A34cC8db*	25-cv-739	Criminal	Technical Support Scam	In rem civil forfeiture case against cryptocurrency seized from the crypto wallet of an individual/ individuals perpetrating a tech support scam targeting older adults.	Final Order of Forfeiture	
USAO Maryland	*U.S. v. Hunter Haithcock a.k.a. Hunter Elliott*	1:24-cr-00248-MJM	Criminal	Investment Scam	Hunter Haithcock posed as an investment advisor employed by a large brokerage firm. Victims entrusted Haithcock to invest their funds through the creation of investment accounts for the investors, but instead allegedly perpetrated a scheme to defraud the investors by causing them to distribute monies intended to fund their investments to accounts he controlled, spending the money for his own personal use, including car payments, airplane tickets, restaurant purchases, and entertainment. He also invested some of the monies in funds for his own benefit. https://www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/north-carolina-man-who-posed-investment-adviser-indicted-stealing-over-600000-investor	Indictment	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Maryland	*U.S. v. Nickoy Campbell*	24-cr-00004	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Nickoy Campbell, age 29, allegedly engaged in a lottery fraud scheme with co-conspirators in which victims received mail or phone calls notifying them they had won millions in a lottery or sweepstakes but were required to send payment in advance for taxes and other fees before they could receive their winnings. Defendants and other conspirators caused the victims to send payments for the purported taxes and other fees through wire transfer, by gift card, by sending cash, and by other payment methods. https://www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/jamaican-national-indicted-alleged-lottery-scheme-defrauded-victims-more-95-million	Indictment	Dwane Henry, Wayne Henry
USAO Maryland	*U.S. v. Patrick Britton-Harr*	1:23-cv-01921-ELH	Civil	COVID-19-Related Fraud; Healthcare Fraud	Patrick Britton-Harr owned and operated Provista Health, LLC, as well as multiple other corporate entities that offered COVID-19 tests to nursing homes as a way to bill Medicare for a wide array of medically unnecessary respiratory pathogen panel (RPP) tests. These RPP tests were not medically necessary because the beneficiaries had no symptoms of a respiratory illness and because the tests were for uncommon respiratory pathogens. Additionally, Britton-Harr and Provista Health submitted claims for RPP tests that were never ordered by physicians and sometimes for RPP tests that were never performed, including over 300 claims that stated that the nasal swab test sample was supposedly collected from the beneficiary on a date after the beneficiary had died. https://www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/united-states-obtains-26-million-false-claims-act-judgments-against-laboratory-companies	Default judgment of $26,341,951.38	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Maryland	*U.S. v. Farquharson*	1:24-mj-01895	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Tavoy Farquharson, age 32, allegedly contacted victims by mail or over the phone and convinced them that they had won millions of dollars in a lottery or sweepstakes but were required to send payment in advance for taxes and other fees before they could receive their winnings. Farquharson and his co-conspirators caused the victims to send payments for the purported taxes and other fees through wire transfer, by gift card, by sending cash or checks through the U.S. mail, by other interstate commercial carrier, and by other payment methods. https://www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/jamaican-national-faces-federal-charge-alleged-lottery-scheme-defrauded-victims-more-95	Complaint	
USAO Maryland	*U.S. v. Tianna Cosby*	PX-23-0442	Criminal	Identity Theft	Cosby, age 24, engaged in a wide-ranging fraud conspiracy to defraud financial institutions by stealing checks from the mail, altering and falsifying those checks, and then depositing the altered checks with financial institutions. https://www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/large-check-fraud-scheme-leader-sentenced-more-nine-years-federal-prison	114 months' imprisonment	Marche Sisco, Tommi Cosby, Biniah Carter, Zion Oluwademilade Adeduwon
USAO Maryland	*U.S. v. Mountee Brown*	TDC-25-73	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Brown and his co-conspirators devised a scheme where he used his position as a Bank Teller to make at least 26 unauthorized cash withdrawals involving the accounts of five victims in particular, four of whom were over the age of 80. Between October 22, 2022, and December 6, 2022, Brown made cash deposits of approximately $30,200 into his personal account held at another financial institution.	Guilty verdict	

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USAO Massachusetts	*U.S. v. Patel*	3:24cr30060	Criminal	Technical Support Scam; Government Impersonation Scam	A co-conspirator of Patel allegedly contacted older victims by phone, posing as an official from the United States Treasury Department named “Sam Wilson.” Wilson allegedly told one older victim that Treasury documents showed him to be involved in a money laundering scheme and instructed the victim to take out the cash from his bank accounts and the Treasury Department would safeguard the funds. Patel, age 21, collected the cash from victims. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ma/pr/south-boston-man-indicted-role-elder-fraud-conspiracy-defrauded-victim-nearly-500000	Indictment	
USAO Massachusetts	*U.S. v. Clasby, Jr.*	1:25cr10003	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Clasby, age 60, was the Director of the Quincy Department of Elder Services and allegedly used the City’s purchasing process to pay personal expenses and generate cash for himself. Clasby also arranged for the city to pay over $38,000 to a New York consulting company owned by Clasby’s friend. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ma/pr/former-quincy-official-indicted-embezzling-city-funds	Indictment	
USAO Massachusetts	*U.S. v. David Smerling*	25cr10037	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement; Relative/ Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	David Smerling, age 75, acting in his capacity as an attorney embezzled funds from his 79-year-old employer, a 74-year-old relative with special needs from whom Defendant used his powers as trustee of the special needs trust established for the benefit of his relative, and a 79-year-old relative with dementia, using a power of attorney over this victim’s financial accounts. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ma/pr/lexington-attorney-agrees-plead-guilty-embezzling-more-3-million-companies-and-relatives	Plead guilty	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Massachusetts	*U.S. v. Derek Aut*	25cr10082	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Derek Aut, age 29, in his role as a bank teller stole from the bank accounts of two customers by forging the victims' names on withdrawal slips, among other things, including the account of a 98-year-old woman. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ma/pr/former-bank-teller-sentenced-over-two-years-prison-stealing-more-180000#:~:text=Derek%20Aut%2C%2029%2C%20was%20sentenced,employee%20and%20aggravated%20identity%20theft.	25 months' imprisonment; 2 years supervised release; $183,677.73 restitution ordered	
USAO Michigan, Eastern	*U.S. v. Beard*	5:23cr20298	Criminal	Fine Art Fraud	Beard, age 59, engaged in an ongoing scheme to defraud dozens of her customers, many of whom were older adults. The primary purpose of the scheme was for Beard to convert to her own use multiple fine art photographs that had been provided to her on a consignment basis, in order to sell those photographs and keep the proceeds for herself (rather than turning over the proceeds to the consignors). She also took thousands of dollars in payments from other victims for photographs which she then failed to deliver. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edmi/pr/former-birmingham-art-dealer-sentenced-over-five-years-prison-defrauding-elderly	63 months' imprisonment; $2 million restitution ordered	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Michigan, Western	*U.S. v. Okunola et al.*	1:23cr148	Criminal	Romance Scam	Okunola, age 37, Oluwaseyi Adeola, age 34, McDougal, age 33, and Ijeoma Adeola, age 36, served as money mules for co-conspirators primarily in Nigeria. The Nigerian co-conspirators defrauded individuals in the United States, many who were older or particularly vulnerable, through a variety of fraud schemes. The Nigerian co-conspirators created false online personas to develop relationships with their victims over the internet, through social media, by text messages or by telephone. After developing the relationships, the conspirators asked for money for a variety of reasons related to the scheme and directed the victims to send the money to the Defendants. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdmi/pr/2025_0115_Okunola_F_Sentencing	Fatai Okunola: 121 months' imprisonment; $731,879.16 restitution ordered; concurrent sentence of 60 and 120 months' imprisonment; deportation following sentence. Oluwaseyi Adeola: 34 months' imprisonment; $409,968.93 restitution ordered. Ijeoma Adeola: 36 months' probation; $48,570 restitution ordered. Cory McDougal: Guilty plea.	

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USAO Michigan, Western	*U.S. v. Morales*	1:24cr70	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	Morales, age 51, admitted to agreeing with at least one other person to conspire to use fake documents—an "FBI WARRANT OF ARREST" and "IRS RECEIPT"—that Morales printed out to provide to the victim in order to obtain money. Morales was told she could retain $2500. However, law enforcement was notified and the victim's phone number was reassigned to a law enforcement cell phone, thus, Morales was talking with law enforcement, not the victim. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdmi/pr/2024_0813_Morales_K_Plea	Guilty plea	
USAO Michigan, Western	*U.S. v. Patel et al.*	1:23cr87	Criminal	Technical Support Scam; Money Mule	The fraud scheme began when victims received a pop-up message on their computers warning that a virus had infected their devices. The messages urged the victims to call a number to get help. When the victims called the number provided, they got a response from someone claiming to work for a tech company, such as Microsoft or Apple. In truth, they were scammers located in India, who scared the victims into giving money to the conspiracy with a variety of different ruses. Panchal, age 55, and Shetty, age 53, travelled throughout the United States at the direction of the leaders of the conspiracy in India to collect millions of dollars in cash from the victims, many of whom were older. They also laundered fraud proceeds by depositing cash into various bank accounts. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdmi/pr/2024_0816_Panchal_Shetty_Sentenced	Jayesh J. Panchal: 78 months' imprisonment; $7,930,287 restitution ordered. Vijaya C. Shetty: 63 months' imprisonment; $596,800 restitution ordered.	Everette Jhamal Thibou, Jmyla Elaine Sha'Taria White, McKhaela Katelynn McNamara, Jorrel Tyler Jackson

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Michigan, Western	*U.S. v. Patel et al.*	1:23cr87	Criminal	Technical Support Scam; Money Mule	Thibou, age 32, was part of a conspiracy in which victims of the conspiracy received a pop-up or other message on their computers warning that a virus had infected their devices. The messages urged the victims to call a number to get help. When the victims called the number provided, they got a response from someone claiming to work for a tech company, such Microsoft or Apple. In truth, they were scammers located in India, who scared the victims into giving money to the conspiracy with a variety of different ruses. Thibou, and the other Defendants, were the United States-based members of the conspiracy who collected fraud proceeds from victims on behalf of the conspiracy. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdmi/pr/2024_1031_Thibou_E_Sentenced	168 months' imprisonment	Jmyla Elaine Sha'taria White, Jayesh J. Panchal, Jorrel Tyler Jackson, Vijaya C. Shetty, McKhaela Katelynn McNamara, Pragneshbhai M. Patel
USAO Michigan, Western	*U.S. v. Gill*	1:23cr156	Criminal	Consumer Scam	Gill, age 63, worked with a call center in Pakistan offering victims equipment upgrades, software upgrades, and subscription discounts for their cable television, satellite television, and internet services. While the businesses did not actually provide any of those services, callers instructed victims to send payments to Gill's post office boxes. Gill retrieved victims' payments and deposited them into bank accounts in the names of fake cable and satellite television businesses, and calculated how much money to keep for himself and how much to wire to Pakistan. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdmi/pr/2024_1115_Gill_I_Sentenced	96 months' imprisonment; $561,980.27 restitution ordered	

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USAO Minnesota	*U.S. v. Rahm et al.*	0:20cr232	Criminal	Consumer Scam	Moulder, age 63, purchased lists that contained the information of consumers—many of whom were older and vulnerable—who were already receiving magazines through other companies. Moulder provided the lists to his sales teams and directed them to use deceptive sales scripts to induce victims into making large or repeat payments to Moulder's companies for unwanted magazine subscriptions. As part of this scheme, Diallo, age 36, pretended to be from the "magazine cancellation department" and offered to pay off the victims' "outstanding balance" and cancel their existing magazine subscriptions in exchange for a large, lump-sum payment. In reality, the victims did not owe Diallo or his company any money, and Diallo had no power or ability to cancel the victims' existing magazine subscriptions or any outstanding balances. https://www.justice.gov/usao-mn/pr/two-men-sentenced-prison-their-roles-300-million-nationwide-magazine-fraud-scheme	Anthony Eugene Moulder: 120 months' imprisonment. Abdou-Rahmane Diallo: 90 months' imprisonment.	Amondo Antoine Miller
USAO Minnesota	*U.S. v. Rahm et al.*	0:20cr232	Criminal	Consumer Scam	Miller, age 48, and his co-conspirators accomplished their scheme by calling victim-consumers, many of whom were older and vulnerable, who had one or more existing magazine subscriptions and offering to "renew" the existing magazine subscriptions, often at a reduced cost. In reality, the conspirators tricked the victim-consumers into signing up for entirely new magazine subscriptions, which they did not want and often could not afford. https://www.justice.gov/usao-mn/pr/colorado-man-sentenced-eight-years-prison-his-role-300-million-nationwide-telemarketing	96 months' imprisonment; 5 years supervised release	Anthony Eugene Moulder, Abdou-Rahmane Diallo

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Minnesota	*U.S. v. Kordorwu*	0:23cr27	Criminal	Romance Scam; Money Mule	Kordorwu, age 38, helped facilitate an online romance fraud scheme that targeted primarily older victims and lured them into sending money under false pretenses. The scheme relied on perpetrators impersonating a real or plausible but fictitious person, such as a senior United States diplomat or military official, that contacted the victims through online social media applications. The victims eventually were directed to send large sums of money by mail or other commercial means to a specified name and address. https://www.justice.gov/usao-mn/pr/brooklyn-park-man-sentenced-five-years-prison-23m-romance-fraud-scheme	63 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $2,144,291.86 restitution ordered	
USAO Mississippi, Northern	*U.S. v. Nasruddin*	3:24-cr-00116-DMB-RP	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	Nooruddin Bhai Nasruddin, age 52, was involved in a fraud conspiracy where the callers contacted victims and notified them that their bank accounts and/or Social Security Numbers were compromised. The callers instructed the victims to withdraw the cash, which would be picked up by an alleged "federal agent," which was in realty Nasruddin. The caller provided the victim with a special code to give to the "federal agent" (Nasruddin). https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndms/pr/llegal-alien-sentenced-large-scale-phone-scams	60 months' imprisonment; 5 years supervised release; $104,000 restitution ordered	
USAO Mississippi, Southern	*U.S. v. Grace*	3:24cr74	Criminal	Government Benefits Fraud	Taruars Santae Grace, age 46, admitted that she stole Social Security Administration (SSA) retirement benefits intended for two older victims. Grace diverted the SSA benefits into bank accounts to which she had access and control and spent the benefits for her personal use despite knowing that she was not entitled to the money. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdms/pr/meridian-woman-pleads-guilty-theft-social-security-funds	Guilty plea	

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USAO Mississippi, Southern	*U.S. v. Kenny Nguyen*	1:24cr121	Criminal	Identity Theft	Nguyen, age 31, had stolen the identities (documents, papers) of approximately 27 people, the majority of whom were older adults. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdms/pr/texas-man-convicted-unauthorized-identity-documents-illegal-intent#:~:text=GULFPORT%2C%20MS%20%E2%80%93%20A%20Houston%2C,personal%20information%20of%20other%20people.	Guilty plea	
USAO Mississippi, Southern	*U.S. v. Michelle White*	1:25cr28	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Michelle White allegedly was a participant in a sweepstakes/grant scam through which she and co-conspirators duped mostly older victims into providing gift cards, cash, and checks to receive a U.S. Government "grant" they won on Facebook. White would also remit funds to likely conspirators in Africa through crypto and wire.	Indictment	
USAO Missouri, Eastern	*U.S. v. Guo*	4:24cr214	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam; Business Impersonation Scam	Guo, age 28, was part of a conspiracy that targeted older victims. Members of the conspiracy began contacting one older victim in March of 2024. In phone calls and electronic messages, they claimed to represent her financial institutions and/or the Social Security Office and falsely claimed that her financial accounts had been compromised. On several occasions, Guo went to the older woman's home to pick up the cash. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edmo/pr/chinese-national-sentenced-taking-95000-elder-fraud-victim	21 months' imprisonment	

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USAO Missouri, Eastern	*U.S. v. Miqui-Castillo*	4:23cr665	Criminal	Business Impersonation Scam; Government Impersonation Scam; Money Mule	The conspirators contacted mostly older victims falsely claiming to be from various financial institutions or government agencies. They told the victims that their accounts had been compromised and were being used for illegal activity and induced victims to give them cash or valuables to stop that illegal activity. Miqui-Castillo, age 35, was provided with the victims' addresses, picked up cash, gold bars, or other valuables and then delivered or shipped it to co-conspirators in exchange for money. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edmo/pr/new-jersey-man-admits-aiding-conspiracy-defraud-elderly	Guilty plea	
USAO Missouri, Eastern	*U.S. v. Garcia*	4:24cr661	Criminal	Business Impersonation Scam	The conspirators allegedly contacted primarily older victims and made various false claims to induce victims to hand over cash or valuables. In one instance, the conspirators claimed to be from a victim's financial institution and told the older victim that her accounts had been compromised and were being used for illegal activity and that the victim needed to give them money to stop that illegal activity. Garcia, age 36, instructed couriers to pick up valuables from victims of the scam. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edmo/pr/alleged-member-fraud-ring-targeting-elderly-arrested-florida	Indictment	
USAO Missouri, Eastern	*U.S. v. James*	4:24cr198	Criminal	Home Construction, Repair, or Renovation Scam	Austin James, age 27, aided in the crimes of Gino Rives. An 80-year-old victim hired Rives to repair her roof. Rives instructed the older victim to write checks to himself and Austin James for purportedly performing work on the victim's, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, basement and foundation. Photos presented during the sentencing hearing proved that he did not perform the work for which he had been paid. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edmo/pr/jefferson-county-contractor-sentenced-financially-exploiting-elderly-woman	5 years' probation; 90 days house arrest; 80 hours community service; $94,606 restitution ordered	Gino Rives

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USAO Missouri, Eastern	*U.S. v. Lambert et al.*	4:24cr299	Criminal	Technical Support Scam	Lambert, age 22, Stevens, age 23, Parekh, age 51, Darji, age 41, and Singh, age 42, allegedly contacted older victims via telephone calls and electronic messages, falsely claiming that the victims' savings and retirement accounts had been compromised. They told their victims to transfer funds to the conspirators to keep their accounts secure; sometimes the transfers came via gold bars. Lambert was a courier in the scheme, paid in cash. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edmo/pr/five-arrested-accused-targeting-elderly-victims-tech-support-scam	Indictment	
USAO Missouri, Eastern	*U.S. v. Shirley Waller*	4:24CR00572 JAR	Criminal	Romance Scam	Defendant allegedly acted as a money mule on behalf of Nigerian nationals involved in romance fraud schemes. The principal organizers instructed romance fraud victims to send cash, money orders, and gift card to Defendant in various assumed names.	Indictment	
USAO Missouri, Eastern	*U.S. v. Wen Chen*	4:24CR00596 RWS/SRW	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam; Technical Support Scam	Defendants allegedly acted as couriers in a wire fraud conspiracy targeting older adults in Missouri and Kentucky.	Indictment	
USAO Missouri, Eastern	*U.S. v. Akinfolarin Sessi*	4:24CR569 RWS/NCC	Criminal	Romance Scam	Defendant allegedly made fraudulent representations on a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) application by concealing his involvement in the transmission of illegal fraud proceeds on behalf of Nigerian nationals. The fraud schemes included at least one romance fraud scam that targeted older adults.	Indictment	
USAO Missouri, Eastern	*U.S. v. Brian L. Ditch*	4:25CR348 JAR/SRW	Criminal	Relative/ Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	Ditch allegedly housed his disabled U.S. Army veteran uncle in his garage for years, subjecting him to physical and emotional abuse, including leaving him in his own waste without food or water. After his uncle died in 2019, Ditch allegedly concealed the body to continue collecting his uncle's disability compensation and Social Security benefits.	Indictment	

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USAO Missouri, Western	*U.S. v. Sargent*	4:25cr97	Criminal	Charity Scam	The Platte County Sheriff's Office was contacted by an older woman who reported that she was a victim of fraud, allegedly committed by Sargent, age 35. The woman met Sargent in a Facebook group that connected those experiencing homelessness to helpful resources in the Kansas City area. In late 2021, Sargent allegedly posted a request to this group seeking help to pay for car repairs and the older woman responded by sending a small amount of money. This was followed by more false claims by Sargent over a two year period. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdmo/pr/independence-woman-charged-defrauding-elderly-victim-over-1000000	Indictment	
USAO Missouri, Western	*U.S. v. Obafemi*	6:21cr3085	Criminal	Romance Scam	Obafemi, age 42, participated with conspirators in a romance scam targeting older adults, receiving wire transfers from the victims, coordinating the necessary bank account information, the timing of transfers, and the transfer of funds across accounts. Obafemi received funds in his personal accounts as well as those of two businesses, EasyTickets, LLC, and Goeasy Logistics, LLC, which he owned and operated out of his Georgia residence. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdmo/pr/georgia-man-sentenced-300000-romance-fraud-scheme	24 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $311,520 restitution ordered	
USAO Missouri, Western	*U.S. v. Rutherford*	4:25cr115	Criminal	Relative/ Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	The Dickinson County Sheriff's Office, in Kansas, received a report that several items, including firearms and collector coins, were stolen from the farm of an older couple. Rutherford, age 45, lived on their property and claimed to be a caregiver for the couple. Rutherford allegedly traveled to Missouri to sell over $100,000 in gold and silver coins that belonged to the older couple who resided in Kansas. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdmo/pr/kansas-woman-indicted-defrauding-elderly-victims	Indictment	

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USAO Missouri, Western	*U.S. v. Divianys Morales Alvarez*	25-00093-01-CR-W-BCW	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Defendant allegedly stole Social Security benefits belonging to her mother from January 2020 to August 2024.	Information	
USAO Missouri, Western	*U.S. v. Michael Sylvara*	22-00016-01-CR-W-RK	Criminal	Relative/ Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	Michael Sylvara, age 39, his father's designated representative payee, misappropriated his father's Social Security benefits for his own benefit, leaving his father destitute. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdmo/pr/ozark-business-owner-sentenced-social-security-fraud-perjury	27 months' imprisonment without parole; $42,369 restitution ordered to the government	
USAO Missouri, Western	*U.S. v. Syed Makki*	24-00200-01-CR-W-HFS	Criminal	Technical Support Scam	Conspirators allegedly put malware on older people's computers directing them to call fake Microsoft or government phone numbers. Conspirators convinced victims their money was not safe in bank and retirement accounts or that they needed to move their money to avoid arrest, and to convert the money into gold bars. Makki picked up over $3 million in gold bars from 10 victims throughout the United States from January 2024 to March 2024.	Indictment	
USAO Montana	*U.S. v. Mohammed*	9:25mj40	Criminal	Business Impersonation Scam; Government Impersonation Scam	Zabi Ullah Mohammed, age 29, and others allegedly called an older victim in Missoula, Montana, posing as an Amazon representative and inquiring whether the victim purchased computer equipment. When the victim said she did not purchase any equipment, the Amazon representative claimed the victim's identity was stolen and transferred the victim to the "Social Security Department" and the "U.S. Marshal." The "U.S. Marshal" said the money from the victim's bank accounts needed to be "legalized." Couriers posing as Agents, including Mohammed, showed up on multiple occasions to pick up cash and gold from the victim's residence. https://www.justice.gov/usao-mt/pr/india-based-amazon-scam-leads-almost-1-million-dollar-loss-elderly-victim-missoula	Complaint	

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USAO Montana	*U.S. v. Marion Wallace Runs Through, Jr.*	4:24-cr-72-BMM	Criminal	Violence	Defendants allegedly assaulted a 77-year-old victim in his home while attempting to obtain access to a recently installed safe.	Indictment	
USAO Montana	*U.S. v. Ronald David Dean*	9:24-CR-33-DLC	Criminal	Healthcare Fraud	Dean, age 64, a licensed physician, was paid by a telemedicine company to sign orders for durable medical equipment that patients did not need. Dean then fraudulently charged Medicare, CHAMPVA and the Railroad Retirement Board programs for telemedicine office visits that did not occur. The telemedicine company also used Dean's information to prescribe unneeded and unnecessary COVID tests to patients. https://www.justice.gov/usao-mt/pr/whitefish-doctor-sentenced-defrauding-medicare-and-other-federal-health-programs	6 months' imprisonment; 6 months' home confinement; $100,000 fine; $780,509 restitution ordered	
USAO Nebraska	*U.S. v. Breyer et al.*	8:23cr79	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam; Money Mules	An older victim was falsely informed by an unknown individual that she had won $18.5 million in the Publisher's Clearing House Sweepstakes and needed to pay $100,000 for taxes and fees, $70,000 of which was sent to Kenneth Breyer, age 75, and Elaine (a.k.a. Edith) Breyer, age 74. The Breyers then transmitted $55,000 of the victim's funds to others involved in the fraudulent scheme who were located outside of Nebraska. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ne/pr/gretna-couple-sentenced-conducting-unlicensed-money-transmitting-business	Kenneth and Elaine Breyer: 60 months' probation each; $55,000 restitution ordered	

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USAO Nebraska	*U.S. v. Schutjer*	8:24cr38	Criminal	Relative/ Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	Schutjer, age 36, began working as a caregiver for an older married couple. One of Schutjer's jobs was to run errands for the couple, and to do so, had access to the victims' debit card and account information. Without their knowledge, a new credit card was opened using the name of one member of the couple, and even though that person died shortly thereafter, charges continue to accrue on the card inconsistent with the purchases of an older adult. Services and goods charged to the credit card occurred near and around where Schutjer resided. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ne/pr/council-bluffs-woman-sentenced-14-months-ordered-pay-over-150000-restitution-vulnerable	14 months' imprisonment; 3 years' supervised release; $151,693.74 restitution ordered	
USAO Nevada	*U.S. v. Quaglia et al.*	2:20cr196	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Patrick Fraser, age 44, a Canadian national, allegedly conspired with others to operate fraud schemes through which he mailed fraudulent prize notifications to individuals in the United States and in other countries. The prize notifications falsely represented that the victims had been specifically chosen to receive a large cash prize, typically over $1 million, and would receive the prize upon payment of a small fee. Many of the victims were older and vulnerable. https://www.justice.gov/usao-nv/pr/canadian-national-extradited-mailing-fraudulent-prize-notices	Indictment (Extradited from Canada)	
USAO Nevada	*U.S. v. Phelps*	2:23-cr-0167	Criminal	Romance Scam; Violence; Identity Theft	Phelps, age 43, allegedly would meet older men on dating websites or services, then meet them in-person. It was part of her scheme to drug the older men to gain unauthorized access to and steal money from their financial accounts to personally benefit herself and her family members. https://www.justice.gov/usao-nv/pr/nevada-woman-indicted-romance-scheme-defraud-seniors	Indictment	

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USAO New Hampshire	*U.S. v. Wu*	1:24cr113	Criminal	Romance Scam	Organized criminal elements in China acquired gift cards through multiple fraudulent means, for example, by hacking United States companies, and targeting United States citizens through romance and elder fraud schemes. The criminal elements then sent the gift card data to multiple cells of Chinese nationals operating in the United States through a Chinese-based messaging platform. Naxin Wu, age 26, was a member of one such cell in New Hampshire. https://www.justice.gov/usao-nh/pr/chinese-nationals-sentenced-federal-prison-participating-fraudulent-gift-card-conspiracy	33 months' imprisonment; 1 year supervised release	Mengying Jiang, Mingdong Chen
USAO New Hampshire	*U.S. v. Jiang*	1:24cr117	Criminal	Romance Scam	Mengying Jiang, age 34, participated in a scheme in which organized criminal elements in China acquired gift cards through multiple fraudulent means, for example, by hacking United States companies, and targeting United States citizens through romance and elder fraud schemes. The criminal elements then sent the gift card data to multiple cells of Chinese nationals operating in the United States through a Chinese-based messaging platform where the gift card data were used to purchase Apple products, thereby converting stolen funds into tangible goods that were then consolidated in warehouses for shipment to China, Hong Kong, or countries in Southeast Asia. Jiang was a member of one such cell in New Hampshire. https://www.justice.gov/usao-nh/pr/chinese-nationals-sentenced-federal-prison-participating-fraudulent-gift-card-conspiracy	60 months' imprisonment; 1 year supervised release	Naxin Wu, Mingdong Chen

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USAO New Hampshire	*U.S. v. Chen*	1:24cr116	Criminal	Romance Scam	Mingdong Chen, age 28, participated in a scheme in which organized criminal elements in China acquired gift cards through multiple fraudulent means, for example, by hacking United States companies, and targeting United States citizens through romance and elder fraud schemes. The criminal elements then sent the gift card data to multiple cells of Chinese nationals operating in the United States through a Chinese-based messaging platform where the gift card data were used to purchase Apple products, thereby converting stolen funds into tangible goods that were then consolidated in warehouses for shipment to China, Hong Kong, or countries in Southeast Asia. Chen was a member of one such cell in New Hampshire. https://www.justice.gov/usao-nh/pr/chinese-nationals-sentenced-federal-prison-participating-fraudulent-gift-card-conspiracy	24 months' imprisonment; 1 year supervised release	Naxin Wu, Mengying Jiang
USAO New Hampshire	*U.S. v. Brown*	1:24cr69	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Brown, age 27, was a customer service representative for a New Hampshire credit union. Brown deliberately abused her position of trust to target older account holders, knowing some of whom were unfamiliar with electronic banking. Brown had access to customers' personal identifying information, security questions and answers, and account balances, and used that information to transfer victim funds to other accounts. https://www.justice.gov/usao-nh/pr/arkansas-woman-sentenced-36-months-federal-prison-stealing-over-300000-elderly-customers	36 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release	

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USAO New Hampshire	*U.S. v. Sepetu et al.*	1:22cr46	Criminal	Romance Scam	Quaye, age 47, and Sepetu, age 38, conspired to move money stolen from a victim of fraud who believed they were sending funds to a romantic partner. Unfortunately, that romantic partner was later revealed to be a fictional character created by scammers overseas. The victim sent money to accounts controlled by Quaye and Sepetu. https://www.justice.gov/usao-nh/pr/worcester-couple-sentenced-federal-prison-following-money-laundering-conspiracy	Nafis Quaye: 60 months' imprisonment; 2 years supervised release; $3,287,220 restitution ordered. Sunna Sepetu: 2 months' and 1 day imprisonment; 2 years supervised release; $921,020 restitution ordered.	
USAO New Jersey	*U.S. v. O'Hanlon et al.*	1:23cr257	Criminal	Timeshare or Timeshare Resale Scam	William O'Hanlon, a.k.a. "Patrick Burns," a.k.a. "William Burn," age 60, and additional co-conspirators, engaged in a scheme to financially enrich themselves by selling fraudulent services to timeshare owners over the age of 55 offered through their business, WAB, including offering to rent and/or buy the owners' timeshares under false and fraudulent pretenses or representations, and offering to recover monies timeshare owners had previously paid in connection with other scams. Conspirators obtained lists of timeshare owners and their contact information, and cold-called them to pitch their various services in return for upfront fees. https://www.justice.gov/usao-nj/pr/leader-telemarketing-scheme-targeting-timeshare-owners-over-age-55-wife-plead-guilty	Guilty plea	Karen Stefanowski, James Toner, William Chiusano, Jr., (now deceased, and charges against him dismissed), Alex Klemash, Michael Lambe, La'Tresa Jackson

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO New Jersey	*U.S. v. Ingenbleek*	2:20cr628	Criminal	Business Impersonation Scam; Psychic Fraud	Ingenbleek, age 58, a German citizen, allegedly created in New Jersey numerous direct mail solicitations supposedly from world-renowned psychics, falsely and fraudulently claiming that the recipients were being contacted because they had been the subject of specific visions by the psychics, including visions that the recipients were going to receive large sums of money and good fortune. Initially, victims were told the psychic services were free of charge, but victims then received a letter indicating fees had not been paid and they would be turned over to a collection agency if fees were not received. https://www.justice.gov/usao-nj/pr/long-time-fugitive-extradited-united-states-face-charges-orchestrating-mail-fraud-scheme	Indictment (Extradited from Italy)	
USAO New Jersey	*U.S. v. Mastrogiovanni*	2:25cr330	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Mastrogiovanni, age 48, engaged in a scheme to steal from an 85-year old victim. The victim presented a check to Mastrogiovanni to purchase a vehicle at the car dealership where Mastrogiovanni worked. Mastrogiovanni later used the routing and checking account numbers on the check to make unauthorized personal transactions from the account until the account was empty. https://www.justice.gov/usao-nj/pr/gloucester-county-man-pleads-guilty-tax-fraud-scheme-and-theft-elderly-victims-bank	Guilty plea	
USAO New Jersey	*U.S. v. Clark*	1:25cr305	Criminal	Romance Scam	Felix Clark, a.k.a. "Joseph Moore," a.k.a. "Stanley Smith," age 36, conspired and agreed to receive the proceeds of fraud perpetrated by a co-conspirator in Ghana and then to transfer those proceeds overseas. Over the course of the conspiracy, one or more of Clark's co-conspirators went onto online dating sites and, using fake names, pretended to be romantically interested in mostly older victims. https://www.justice.gov/usao-nj/pr/texas-man-and-his-romantic-partner-plead-guilty-their-roles-harming-elderly-victims	Guilty plea	Esther Amppiaw

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO New Jersey	*U.S. v. Claveria*	2:23cr335	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam; Business Impersonation Scam; Technical Support Scam	Claveria, age 51, acted as a money mule for fraudulent schemes targeting older adults by picking up numerous packages that contained cash that he knew were proceeds of illegal activity. He then laundered some of this money in June 2020 by wiring $20,000 from his United States bank account to a foreign bank account. https://www.justice.gov/usao-nj/pr/new-york-man-sentenced-two-years-prison-laundering-proceeds-fraudulent-schemes	24 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $20,000 forfeiture	
USAO New Jersey	*U.S. v. Dispoto*	3:25cr233	Criminal	Investment Scam; Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Dispoto, Jr., now age 67, owned and operated Giddeon Financial Services and Liberty Mortgage Services. Beginning in or around 1988, Dispoto, Jr., raised money through these and other entities by falsely claiming to victims, many of whom were older adults, that he would invest their money in low-risk investment products with guaranteed rates of return, including municipal bonds and certificates of deposits. In reality, Dispoto did not invest the victims' money as promised, and instead misappropriated victim money to fund his gambling and other personal expenses. https://www.justice.gov/usao-nj/pr/investment-firm-owner-admits-defrauding-approximately-47-victim-investors-over-three	Guilty plea	

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USAO New Jersey	*U.S. v. Valdez*	2:24cr408	Criminal	Grandparent/ Relative in Distress Scam; Money Mule	The scam operated from call centers in the Dominican Republic, making phone calls to older American victims purporting to be the victim's grandchild, an attorney representing the grandchild in criminal proceedings, court personnel, or other persons associated with the legal system. Victims were told that their grandchildren had been arrested and needed cash for bail or other expenses, instructing victims to provide cash to couriers, including Valdez, age 39, who went to victims' homes to pick up the money. https://www.justice.gov/usao-nj/pr/former-social-security-administration-employee-admits-role-transnational-grandparent	Guilty plea	
USAO New Jersey	*U.S. v. Petrosino*	2:25mj10026	Criminal	Investment Scam	Antonio Petrosino, a.k.a. "Anthony Petrosino", age 59, is alleged to have fraudulently induced the older investor to transfer approximately $916,000 to Petrosino based on his misrepresentations that he would invest those funds in brokerage accounts and other investment products for the benefit of the victim investor. Instead, Petrosino misappropriated the money. https://www.justice.gov/usao-nj/pr/hudson-county-man-charged-defrauding-elderly-victim-out-more-880000	Indictment	

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USAO New Jersey	*U.S. v. Parra Arias et al.*	2:24cr6	Criminal	Grandparent/ Relative in Distress Scam	Rafael Ambiorix Rodriguez Guzman, a.k.a. "Max Morgan," age 59, and Felix Samuel Reynoso Ventura, a.k.a. "Fili" and "Filly The Kid," age 37, are alleged to have worked in the call centers in the Dominican Republic from which the scam operated, where they phoned older Americans and sought to steal their money. Once openers tricked victims into believing their loved ones were in dire trouble, others working at the call centers, known as "closers"—including Rodriguez Guzman and Reynoso Ventura—allegedly impersonated defense attorneys, police officers, or court personnel and convinced victims to provide thousands of dollars in cash to help their loved ones. The cash was typically retrieved by couriers sent to the victims' homes or mailed by victims at the direction of the closers. https://www.justice.gov/usao-nj/pr/two-dominican-nationals-extradited-connection-grandparent-scam	Indictment	Juan Rafael Parra Arias, Nefy Vladimir Parra Arias, Nelson Rafael Gonzalez Acevedo, Miguel Angel Fortuna Solano, Carlos Javier Estevez, Louis Junior Rodriguez Serrano, Miguel Angel Vasquez, Jovanni Antonio Rosario Garcia, Jose Ismael Dilone Rodriguez, Endy Jose Torres Moran, Ivan Alexander Inoa Suero, Jhonny Cepeda, Ramon Hurtado, Yuleisy Roque

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USAO New Jersey	*U.S. v. Chanto*	3:23cr393	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Chanto, age 43, participated in a multimillion-dollar money laundering conspiracy operating out of Costa Rica that targeted older victims in the United States. Conspirators in Costa Rica called older adults in the United States over the phone and induced them to mail or wire money to Chanto by claiming that the victims needed to pay off taxes and fees on lottery winnings or taxes and penalties to the United States government. Chanto wired the majority of the funds to his co-conspirators in Costa Rica and retained some for himself as payment for his money laundering services. https://www.justice.gov/usao-nj/pr/costa-rican-national-sentenced-97-months-prison-2-million-money-laundering-scheme	97 months' imprisonment; $2.07 million restitution ordered	
USAO New York, Eastern	*U.S. v. Corona*	1:25cr78	Criminal	Relative/ Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	While employed as a personal assistant to an older married couple (the victims), Corona allegedly repeatedly deposited hundreds of checks written out to cash—made payable to herself—from the victims' bank accounts without their knowledge or consent and also transferred funds directly from the victims' accounts into her own personal accounts for her own personal expenses. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/personal-assistant-charged-scheme-defraud-her-elderly-employers-nearly-10-million	Indictment	
USAO New York, Northern	*U.S. v. Patel*	1:25cr53	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam; Investment Scam; Technical Support Scam; Money Mule	Patel, age 26, allegedly conspired with others to transport across state lines gold bullion that Patel had picked up from an older couple that had been victimized by a scam. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndny/pr/illinois-man-indicted-connection-gold-bullion-scam	Indictment	

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USAO New York, Southern	*U.S. v. Felix et al.*	1:21cr472	Criminal	Romance Scam	From in or about 2016 through in or about 2021, co-conspirators of Nadine Jazmine Wade, age 30, based in Nigeria and South Africa, committed a series of romance scams against primarily older individuals located throughout the United States. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/bronx-woman-sentenced-63-months-prison-laundering-over-2-million-african-romance	63 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $1,772,618 restitution ordered; $2,261,791 forfeiture	
USAO New York, Southern	*U.S. v. Dinnigan et al.*	1:25mj714	Criminal	Home Construction, Repair, or Renovation Scam	James Dinnigan, a.k.a. “Charlie Ward,”, age 27, and Martin Maughan, a.k.a. “Lawrence Rogers”, age 31, allegedly participated in a multi-year, multi-state organized construction fraud scheme that targeted at least 24 victims, including numerous older and vulnerable victims. After making false statements in order to be hired, members of the scheme tricked victims into paying for additional unwanted or unnecessary home repairs and other construction, including by purposefully damaging or destroying the victims’ property. The perpetrators of the scheme then forced victims, including through threats, into paying them tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/irish-and-uk-nationals-charged-multi-state-construction-fraud-targeted-vulnerable	Indictment	
USAO New York, Southern	*U.S. v. Ganiyu*	1:23cr331	Criminal	Romance Scam; Money Mule	A criminal enterprise based in Ghana committed a series of romance scams (and business email compromises) against individuals located across the United States involving vulnerable older men and women who lived alone. Bashiru Ganiyu, age 39, received money sent by the victims of the Enterprise and then laundered those proceeds. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/bronx-man-sentenced-13-years-participating-international-fraud-and-money-laundering	156 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $7,675,785.32 restitution ordered; $11,744,115.07 forfeiture	

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USAO New York, Southern	*U.S. v. Montrage*	1:22cr617	Criminal	Romance Scam	Montrage was a member of a criminal enterprise (the "Enterprise") based in West Africa that committed a series of frauds against individuals and businesses in the United States, including romance scams whose victims were vulnerable older men and women who lived alone. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/prominent-ghanaian-influencer-sentenced-one-year-prison-receiving-romance-scam	12 months' and 1 day imprisonment	
USAO New York, Southern	*U.S. v. Hakim*	1:21cr259	Criminal	Romance Scam; Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam; Business Email Compromise Scam	Okere and co-conspirator Timy Hakim conspired with members of the "Black Axe" transnational criminal organization to engage in fraudulent schemes that left at least 15 people and entities with over a million dollars in losses. Okere facilitated the laundering of proceeds of three types of fraud schemes, a romance scheme, a lottery scheme, and a business email compromise fraud scheme. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/nigerian-man-pleads-guilty-after-extradition-participating-romance-scams-and-other	Guilty plea	Timy Hakim
USAO New York, Western	*U.S. v. Sakr*	1:24cr42	Criminal	Grandparent/ Relative in Distress Scam	Sakr, age 31, conspired with others to defraud older victims out of money and property. Unknown members of the conspiracy contacted older victims by telephone, posing as a relative or loved one, and falsely advised them that they had been arrested for driving while intoxicated (DWI) following a purported motor vehicle accident. The older victims were told that the loved one could only be released from custody if the older victim posted cash bail on their behalf. Sakr, and other members, retrieved money from the older victims. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdny/pr/canadian-man-sentenced-being-money-mule-scam-targeting-elderly	36 months' imprisonment; $262,500 restitution ordered	

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USAO New York, Western	*U.S. v. Singh*	1:24cr30	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	Singh, age 29, conspired with others to obtain money, or other items of value, by fraudulently convincing victims, some of them older adults, to provide money and property to members of the conspiracy. Members contacted victims by telephone and falsely impersonated government officials, telling victims that illicit activity was conducted using their personal information, and in order to "clear" their name, and prevent law enforcement from arresting or prosecuting them, they had to pay money via wire transactions, gift cards, gold, and/or cash to the government. Singh, who served as a courier, was instructed to collect gold bars from a 76-year-old victim. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdny/pr/new-jersey-man-pleads-guilty-his-role-fraud-scheme	Guilty plea	
USAO New York, Western	*U.S. v. Castner*	6:24mj4122	Criminal	Identity Theft	Castner, age 45, lived in a duplex and allegedly gained the trust of the other resident of the duplex who was an older woman in her mid-90s. Using her position of trust, Castner gained access to the victim's personal identifying information and banking information. She then withdrew large sums of cash from ATM's, often close to the daily ATM limit, conducted wire transfer peer-to-peer payments to her own personal bank account, and made unauthorized purchases using the victim's debit card to pay for things such as travel, which included a trip to Hawaii, hotels, car repairs, insurance, and car payments. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdny/pr/rochester-woman-arrested-charged-bilking-elderly-landlord-out-tens-thousands-dollars	Complaint	

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USAO North Carolina, Eastern	*U.S. v. Grimble*	5:24cr112	Criminal	Government Benefits Fraud; Identity Theft	Grimble, age 43, gained access to the personal identifying information of the victim, an older man who was in poor physical and mental health. From early 2021 through 2022, Grimble, along with his co-Defendant, impersonated the victim to steal his Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation and Social Security benefits, open bank accounts, purchase vehicles, and take out life insurance policies, all in the victim's name. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ednc/pr/fayetteville-man-who-stole-identity-elderly-man-sentenced-more-seven-years	More than 84 months' imprisonment	
USAO North Carolina, Western	*U.S. v. Clinton Ogedegbe*	5:25-cr-00014	Criminal	Romance Scam	Clinton Ogedegbe, allegedly conspired with others known and unknown to carry out a scheme to launder the proceeds of romance fraud schemes typically targeting older and other vulnerable victims. Upon receipt of the proceeds into the bank accounts under his control, Ogedegbe and his co-conspirators conducted further financial transactions to unlawfully and unjustly enrich the co-conspirators.	Indictment	
USAO North Carolina, Western	*U.S. v. Kubler*	3:25cr128	Criminal	Investment Scam	Kubler, age 52, not licensed as an investment adviser, allegedly provided investment planning and management services to victims who were unsophisticated investors, older adults, and the beneficiaries of settlements or life insurance proceeds. Throughout the scheme, Kubler allegedly made false and fraudulent representations to victims, concealed and omitted material facts, and told deceptive half-truths to induce victims to invest in commercial real estate through companies he owned and operated. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdnc/pr/unlicensed-adviser-charged-4-million-investment-fraud-scheme-targeting-elderly-and	Indictment	

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USAO North Carolina, Western	*U.S. v. Olorunfunmi et al.*	3:24cr67	Criminal	Romance Scam; Business Email Compromise Scam	Olorunfunmi, age 39, conspired with Samson Amos, Emmanuel Unuigbe, and others to launder the criminal proceeds of various illegal activities, including romance scams that typically targeted older victims, and business email compromise schemes. Upon receiving the fraud proceeds, Olorunfunmi and his co-conspirators transferred the funds to other bank accounts in the United States and overseas. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdnc/pr/nigerian-national-pleads-guilty-laundering-millions-criminal-proceeds-linked-romance	Guilty plea	
USAO North Carolina, Western	*U.S. v. Ahluwalia et. al.*	3:21cr82	Criminal	Technical Support Scam	Ahluwalia, age 39, and his co-Defendant, Andrew Brolese, owned Digital Marketing Support Services (DMSS), a Seychelles-based company that published and sold malicious pop-ups as a means of generating customer traffic for overseas call centers from victims of their tech support scheme, some victim of which were older adults. Allegedly, Ahluwalia and Brolese conspired with others to sell incoming calls from targeted victims seeking purported tech support to companies around the world. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdnc/pr/foreign-national-extradited-spain-face-charges-alleged-international-tech-support	Indictment	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO North Carolina, Western	*U.S. v. Hedden et al.*	1:24cr34	Criminal	Violence	Jordan Nathaniel Hedden, age 31, was convicted of kidnapping. The victim, a 71-year-old female, was driving from Georgia to North Carolina, when she saw Neace, age 32, and Hedden walking. The older victim offered the Defendants a ride because it was cold outside. The Defendants accepted the ride, and soon after they entered North Carolina, Hedden instructed the victim to drive to his car. When they arrived at the location, a car was not there. Hedden then ordered the victim to stop the vehicle, and when the victim refused, Hedden forced the victim to stop the car and get in the back seat. Hedden then took over driving. Paranoid that the victim had a tracking device, at one point, Hedden stopped the vehicle, and he and Neace searched the car and the victim herself for tracking devices. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdnc/pr/man-sentenced-more-10-years-prison-kidnapping-elderly-victim	121 months' imprisonment; 5 years supervised release	Stephanie Miranda Neace
USAO North Carolina, Western	*U.S. v. Quick et al.*	3:24cr36	Criminal	Home Construction, Repair, or Renovation Scam; Tax Fraud	Quick, age 43, and Christo, age 33, provided home repair and improvement services, as well as car repair services, to older clients. The Defendants defrauded some of the older clients by overcharging them for repairs. During that time, the Defendants collectively received more than $1.5 million from older customers but failed to report any of this income on their federal income tax returns filed with the IRS. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdnc/pr/home-repairmen-plead-guilty-tax-fraud-failing-report-income-earned-elderly-clients	Guilty plea	

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USAO North Carolina, Western	*U.S. v. Brawley*	5:23cr30	Criminal	Relative/ Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	Brawley, age 46, engaged in a scheme to defraud her older relatives by exploiting her relationship with the victims to steal their money and property. Brawley was expected to manage the older couple's personal and business affairs and to pay routine bills. Instead, Brawley misused her access to transfer funds to herself, causing the victims to sustain significant financial losses. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdnc/pr/conover-nc-woman-sentenced-prison-stealing-more-300000-elderly-couple	48 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $628,174.06 restitution ordered	
USAO Ohio, Northern	*U.S. v. Shi et al.*	1:25cr276	Criminal	Technical Support Scam	Jinrong Shi, age 28, and Jiyang Zhong, age 27, a Chinese national, allegedly were part of a criminal network that targeted older adults through tech support or grandparent scams. Once the mostly older scam victims were persuaded to withdraw cash from their bank accounts, Shi and Zhong collaborated with a network of co-conspirators to collect the funds. Shi and Zhong used "fraud callers" to speak with victims and gather their addresses and other information. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndoh/pr/new-york-man-and-chinese-national-charged-running-scams-took-thousands-elderly-victims	Indictment	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Ohio, Northern	*U.S. v. 947,883 Tether ("USDT") Cryptocurrency, Valued at approximately $947,883.00*	1:24-CV-2061	Civil	Technical Support Scam	The cryptocurrency fraud scam began when an older man was contacted via a pop-up window on this computer with instructions to call a number to resolve a tech issue. The victim was then told that his retirement account had been compromised and that his funds were being wired to accounts in China or Russia and a casino in Las Vegas. He was provided with a purported solution and told that the transactions could be stopped by wiring money. Thinking that he was protecting his retirement account, the victim gave remote computer access to the scammer who then proceeded to withdraw money. The stolen funds were converted to Tether (USDT) cryptocurrency and placed into a virtual currency wallet. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndoh/pr/ohio-man-deceived-transferring-life-savings-cryptocurrency-scam	Complaint in forfeiture	
USAO Ohio, Northern	*U.S. v. 4,340,000 Tether ("USDT") Cryptocurrency, Valued at Approximately $4,340,000 et al.*	1:25-CV-386	Civil	Investment Scam	Investigators found that scammers initially contacted the victims, many of whom were older, through seemingly misdirected, or "wrong number," text messages. The fraudster then gained the victim's trust and affection using various manipulative tactics. Once trust was established with the victim, the fraudster would share how much success they, or someone they knew, had with investing in cryptocurrency. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndoh/pr/ohio-woman-loses-life-savings-cryptocurrency-investment-scam	Complaint in forfeiture	

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USAO Ohio, Northern	*U.S. v. Smith et al.*	1:12cr344	Criminal	Identity Theft	Smith, age 71, and a co-conspirator transported U.S. Treasury bonds, which had been stolen from an older woman, across state lines. They used fake identification cards with the name of the victim to negotiate the sale of more than 350 forged Series E and EE U.S. Treasury bonds with a face value of $268,500. Additionally, they used the Social Security Number of the victim to open bank accounts. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndoh/pr/ohio-woman-sentenced-prison-selling-nearly-300000-us-treasury-bonds-stolen-elderly	32 months' imprisonment	
USAO Ohio, Northern	*U.S. v. Sakineni et al.*	3:23cr575	Criminal	Business Impersonation Scam; Government Impersonation Scam	Mamidi, age 27, and Patel, age 26, along with other co-conspirators, engaged in a multi-layered scheme in which a scammer, acting as a customer service representative for a store or bank, contacted a target victim, typically an older adult, and falsely informed them that their bank account had been hacked or compromised. Next, the victim was directed to a fake federal law enforcement agent for supposed assistance. The fake federal agent then proceeded to obtain the victim's savings by deception, typically threatening imminent seizure or arrest. Mamidi and Patel served as money launderers for the operation. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndoh/pr/indian-nationals-convicted-money-laundering-conspiracy-took-life-savings-victims-ohio	Guilty verdict	Dileep Kumar Sakineni, Balaji Rakesh Mulpuri, Avi Jitendrakumar Patel, Sai Hruthik Thodeti, Srinivas Ravi Valluru, Hiren Jagdishbhai Patel

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Ohio, Northern	*U.S. v. Alahmad*	1:23cr286	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Alahmad, age 46, befriended the older victim and stayed at the residence a few days a week. Alahmad assisted the victim by cleaning the house and running errands. Alahmad also created a fraudulent power of attorney (POA) that named her as POA by forging the victim's signature and then used the POA to obtain credit and debit cards in the victim's name. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndoh/pr/cleveland-woman-sentenced-2-12-years-prison-forging-power-attorney-steal-more-46k	30 months' imprisonment; $46,064 restitution ordered	
USAO Ohio, Northern	*U.S. v. Mazharul Islam*	5:24-cr-100	Criminal	Business Impersonation Scam	Defendant acted as a courier to pick up cash from the victim.	Guilty verdict	
USAO Ohio, Southern	*U.S. v. Daley*	1:24cr128	Criminal	Investment Scam	Daley, age 53, was employed by a life insurance brokerage firm and advised several older clients with respect to life insurance and annuity products. Daley fraudulently convinced client victims to withdraw certain assets from the insurance brokerage firm and to deposit the funds into their own personal accounts. Daley then influenced the victims to make payments to a bank account for an entity that Daley controlled. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdoh/pr/montgomery-county-man-pleads-guilty-defrauding-elderly-victims-hundreds-thousands	Guilty plea	
USAO Ohio, Southern	*U.S. v. Crosby*	1:23-cr-00111	Criminal	Identity Theft	Crosby, age 37, used identifying information belonging to his elderly father, his girlfriend, a deceased man, and others. He falsely told at least one law firm that he was a University of Michigan football player and an ex-Marine. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdoh/pr/disbarred-attorney-pleads-guilty-social-security-number-fraud-part-scheme-obtain-jobs	Guilty plea	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Oklahoma, Eastern	*U.S. v. Castleberry-Miller*	24CR164	Criminal	Violence	Ashley Nicole Castleberry-Miller, age 30, killed victim in a motor vehicle accident when she drove left of the center line of the roadway while driving distracted and under the influence of alcohol. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edok/pr/marshall-county-resident-pleads-guilty-involuntary-manslaughter-indian-country#:~:text=MUSKOGEE%2C%20OKLAHOMA%20%E2%80%93%20The%20United%20States,up%20to%2096%20months%20imprisonment.	Guilty plea	
USAO Oklahoma, Eastern	*U.S. v. David Lee*	24-CR-214	Criminal	Violence	David Allen Lee, age 44, stabbed victim in the chest with a knife. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edok/pr/federal-jury-convicts-fort-gibson-resident-second-degree-murder-indian-country	Guilty verdict	
USAO Oklahoma, Eastern	*U.S. v. Timmy Lynn Tatum*	25-CR-53	Criminal	Violence	Timmy Lynn Tatum, age 17, robbed and assaulted victim with a dangerous weapon. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edok/pr/carter-county-resident-pleads-guilty-robbery-felony-assault	Guilty plea	
USAO Oklahoma, Eastern	*U.S. v. Nicholas Lapez Scarborough*	6:23CR192	Criminal	Violence	Nicholas Lapez Scarborough, age 32, fatally stabbed two individuals using a steak knife, including one elderly individual. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edok/pr/wagoner-county-resident-sentenced-two-counts-second-degree-murder	405 months' imprisonment	
USAO Oklahoma, Northern	*U.S. v. Martin*	4:24cr37	Criminal	Violence	The 85-year-old victim told deputies that a masked man, later identified as Teddy Lee Martin, age 63, entered the house with a handgun, demanded money, and threatened to kill the victim if she did not cooperate. Martin stole jewelry and physically assaulted the victim before leaving the home. Tulsa police officers later pulled over Martin's vehicle. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndok/pr/claremore-man-sentenced-after-robbing-and-assaulting-elderly-woman	78 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $6,000 restitution ordered	Morgan Turley

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Oklahoma, Northern	*U.S. v. Brian Fox*	25-CR-21-JFH	Criminal	Violence	Brian Fox allegedly burglarized the homes of older victims who had either died or gone to a nursing home.	Indictment	
USAO Oklahoma, Northern	*U.S. v. Monica Thompson*	24-CR-391-GKF	Criminal	Romance Scam	Monica Thompson and her co-Defendant, Joseph Starky, allegedly arranged a sham marriage to her victim (with dementia) in order to steal his money and his veterans benefits.	Indictment	
USAO Oklahoma, Northern	*U.S. v. Rick Dolph, Jr.*	25-CR-114-JFH	Criminal	Violence	Rick Dolph, Jr., allegedly assaulted his elderly victim, resulting in serious bodily injury.	Indictment	
USAO Pennsylvania, Eastern	*U.S. v. Askew*	2:23cr20	Criminal	Violence	Alex Askew, age 20, and others committed three carjackings and one attempted carjacking, all with firearms, targeting older victims. In the first carjacking, Askew was one of three people to brandish a firearm at three victims aged 60 to 80 years old parking their vehicle. In the course of stealing their Mitsubishi SUV, Askew and others threatened to kill them. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edpa/pr/philadelphia-man-sentenced-21-years-prison-series-armed-carjackings-targeting-elderly	21 years' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $36,183 restitution; $800 assessment fee	Zamir Tucker
USAO Pennsylvania, Eastern	*U.S. v. Askew*	2:23cr20	Criminal	Violence	Zamir Tucker, age 21, and others threatened a 66-year-old woman at gunpoint, who had just parked her car in front of her home. The offenders demanded the keys, stole the victim's purse, and fled in her vehicle. Four days later the Defendants attempted another carjacking but were unsuccessful. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edpa/pr/philadelphia-man-sentenced-more-seven-years-prison-his-role-two-gunpoint-carjackings	85 months' imprisonment; 5 years supervised release; $33,483 restitution ordered	Alex Askew

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Pennsylvania, Eastern	*U.S. v. Tejada et al.*	2:24cr207	Criminal	Identity Theft	Oliver Tejada, age 25, and associates obtained confidential bank account information from their victims, some of whom were older or retired. After the account information had been secured, the conspirators made phone calls to the various banks to obtain a current balance on the account and attempted to obtain additional information about the accounts. Tejada worked with an imposter to steal the cash from the bank. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edpa/pr/new-york-man-sentenced-five-years-prison-bank-fraud-scheme	60 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $780,837.11 forfeiture	
USAO Pennsylvania, Eastern	*U.S. v. Hardy*	2:25cr113	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	While Hardy, now age 58, was serially employed as a business office coordinator at two senior living facilities, she allegedly exploited the resident fund management service (RFMS) for her personal benefit on a recurring basis, improperly accessing the RFMS system and issuing checks on resident accounts, making them payable to various family members and associates of hers. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edpa/pr/former-business-office-coordinator-two-area-senior-living-facilities-indicted-eight	Indictment	
USAO Pennsylvania, Eastern	*U.S. v. Tietolman et al.*	2:14cr465	Criminal	Consumer Scam	Tietolman, age 50, directed his fraud scheme from Montréal, Canada. After Tietolman obtained names and telephone numbers of older Americans, he and Harper hired and instructed telemarketers to call these older Americans to sell them worthless or non-existent products and services offered by the fraud companies, such as purported fraud protection services, a purported prescription drug discount card, and a purported discounted legal service, all of which were worthless or non-existent. Victim's bank accounts were then debited without their informed consent. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edpa/pr/extradited-canadian-man-sentenced-10-years-prison-orchestrating-massive-telemarketing	120 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $7,042.898 restitution ordered; $700 special assessment fee	Marc Roy Ferry, Adam Harper

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Pennsylvania, Eastern	*U.S. v. Byars et al.*	2:21cr247	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Carlton Rembert's late co-conspirator and sister, Gloria Byars, was a court-appointed guardian for over 100 incapacitated persons in Pennsylvania. Byars, Rembert (age 70), and other co-conspirators stole the life savings from dozens of wards while Byars served as their court-appointed guardian. Rembert and Mitchell assisted Byars in the theft by opening bank accounts in the names of shell companies purporting to be medical services companies. Byars made the checks payable to her co-conspirators' fake medical services companies, to make it appear that the older incapacitated ward incurred a legitimate medical expense. Rembert and Byars spent the stolen ward money on personal expenses, including vacations, clothing and other retail purchases, restaurants, vehicles, gifts, and parties. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edpa/pr/virginia-man-sentenced-66-months-prison-stealing-elderly-incapacitated-victims	66 months' imprisonment; 5 years supervised release; $534,335 restitution ordered; $400 special assessment fee	Alesha Mitchell

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Pennsylvania, Eastern	*U.S. v. Alan Redmond*	24-cr-376	Criminal	Healthcare Fraud	The corporate Defendants, Bene Market LLC and Seguro Medico LLC, doing business as Quick Health, Q Health, Benefits Now, Express Benefits, and YourBenefits4U (collectively, the "Bene Market Group"), allegedly operated a boiler room call center near Reading, Pennsylvania, which peddled discount health and dental plans to consumers through a series of false, misleading, and deceptive sales practices. The businesses were controlled and managed by the principal architect of the alleged fraud scheme, Defendant Alan Redmond, age 42. Thousands of elderly victims across the country were victimized by purchasing bunk health insurance that the Defendants falsely claimed was robust. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edpa/pr/four-businessmen-and-two-companies-charged-nationwide-telemarketing-fraud-scheme	Charged	
USAO Pennsylvania, Eastern	*U.S. v. Gregory Stefan, Jr.*	24-cr-239	Criminal	Consumer Fraud	Gregory J. Stefan, Jr., age 54, allegedly sold custom headstones to nearly 500 paying customers and failed to deliver the orders or provide any refunds. Given the nature of his business, many of Defendant's defrauded customers (who tended to be either spouses or children of the deceased) were older adults. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edpa/pr/headstone-salesman-charged-defrauding-hundreds-customers-pennsylvania-and-new-jersey	Indictment	
USAO Pennsylvania, Eastern	*U.S. v. Rembert*	21-cr-247	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Rembert, age 70, controlled bank accounts used to launder the proceeds that his sister, Gloria Byars, stole from dozens of older and incapacitated persons under the guardianship of Byars, abusing her position as a court-appointed guardian to access and liquidate her wards' assets and transfer their funds to Rembert and other conspirators. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edpa/pr/virginia-man-sentenced-66-months-prison-stealing-elderly-incapacitated-victims	66 months' imprisonment; 5 years supervised release; $534,335 restitution ordered; $400 special assessment fee	Alesha Mitchell

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Pennsylvania, Middle	*U.S. v. Pitter et al.*	1:21cr26	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Pitter, age 48, Lyttle, age 49, and Marshall, age 44, who are all lawful permanent residents of the United States originally from Jamaica, received and laundered funds from victims of a Jamaican lottery scam targeting older Americans. https://www.justice.gov/usao-mdpa/pr/three-new-york-residents-sentenced-fraud-and-money-laundering-using-funds-elderly	Caron Pitter: 66 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $245,147.98 restitution ordered. Rohan Lyttle: 97 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $245,147.98 restitution ordered. Charlene Marshall: 34 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $245,147.98 restitution ordered.	Rohan Lytle, Jr.
USAO Pennsylvania, Middle	*U.S. v. Lin et al.*	4:24cr337	Criminal	Business Impersonation Scam	Sun Tong Lin, age 37, and Xueliang Chen, age 36, allegedly were part of a scheme to defraud primarily older victims by convincing them that their online accounts or bank accounts were not secure. The conspirators would convince the victim to withdraw a large sum of cash and hand it over to an agent for safekeeping, when, in reality, they were stealing the money. https://www.justice.gov/usao-mdpa/pr/two-new-york-men-indicted-wire-fraud-scheme	Indictment	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Pennsylvania, Western	*U.S. v. Rodriguez*	2:25cr86	Criminal	Grandparent/ Relative in Distress Scam	Rodriguez, age 34, allegedly was a member of an organized crime group operating across Pennsylvania and Ohio to defraud older victims in the Western District of Pennsylvania and elsewhere out of tens of thousands of dollars pursuant to a grandparent fraud scam. The money was picked up from victims by Lyft and Uber drivers and delivered to Rodriguez, who then sent much of the fraud proceeds to the Dominican Republic via wire transfers, as well as deposited portions of the fraud proceeds into bank accounts. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdpa/pr/dominican-republic-citizen-residing-cleveland-ohio-indicted-defrauding-grandparents	Indictment	
USAO Pennsylvania, Western	*U.S. v. Burnett*	2:25cr76	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Yonel Burnett, age 28, Omar McKenzie, age 34, Shemeca Shields, age 29, Nicole Lamont, age 30, and their co-conspirators allegedly executed a fraud scheme that stole more than $4.5 million from older and vulnerable victims in the Western District of Pennsylvania and elsewhere in the United States. As part of that scheme, conspirators, including Burnett, contacted the victims and falsely told them that they had won a million- or multi-million-dollar sweepstakes, but needed to pay certain taxes and fees before they could claim their prize. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdpa/pr/four-more-defendants-indicted-fraud-and-money-laundering-charges-relating	Indictment	Jason Plummer, Troy Williams, Tajay Singh, Tashane Murray, Clevon McKenzie, Gyzzell Byfield, Daneil Reid
USAO Pennsylvania, Western	*U.S. v. Fry*	2:23cr250	Criminal	Identity Theft	Fry, age 44, obtained and used an older neighbor's credit cards and personal identifying information, including the neighbor's date of birth and Social Security Number, in order to make fraudulent and unauthorized transactions. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdpa/pr/lower-burrell-man-sentenced-fraudulent-use-neighbors-credit-cards	3 years' probation	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Rhode Island	*U.S. v. Song et al.*	1:25cr47	Criminal	Technical Support Scam	Nanjun Song, age 27, and seven co-conspirators are alleged to have played a role in orchestrating and executing an elaborate tech support scam and money laundering scheme targeting older citizens in the United States and Canada. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ri/pr/eight-indicted-transnational-fraud-scheme	Indictment	Jirui Liu, Xiang Li, Xuehai Sun, Fangzheng Wang, Cynthia Jia Sun, Zhenyang Xin, Wing Kit Ho
USAO Rhode Island	*U.S. v. Munoz*	1:24mj92	Criminal	Grandparent/ Relative in Distress Scam	Munoz, age 29, and Rhodes, age 34, allegedly operating as couriers, traveled to various locations in Rhode Island and Massachusetts and collected payments from unsuspecting older victims in more than a dozen communities. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ri/pr/two-men-face-federal-charges-grandparent-scams-targeted-elderly-victims-across-multiple	Indictment	
USAO Rhode Island	*U.S. v. Shine*	1:24cr53	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Shine, age 47, utilized the United States mail to allegedly engage in predatory fraud schemes that duped older adults and other vulnerable individuals into sending payments, usually between $20 and $30 dollars, using mailings that falsely stated or suggested that recipients were entitled to cash prizes, valuable items, or other premiums. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ri/pr/providence-businesswoman-arraigned-federal-court-alleged-10-million-fraud-schemes	Indictment	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Rhode Island	*U.S. v. Liu*	1:24mj84	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	Jirui Liu, age 22, allegedly participated in a government impersonation scam. A 79-year-old man received a pop-up message that falsely claimed that he was under investigation for attempting to purchase child pornography. He was directed to call a telephone number provided to him to address the issue. When he called the number, scammers falsely told him that his Social Security Number had been compromised and was involved in money laundering activity, and that the government was attempting to garnish his assets. The scammers then put the victim in touch with co-conspirators who impersonated federal authorities and a bank employee who instructed the victim to turn over his assets to the government so that they could be secured during the investigation. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ri/pr/two-individuals-detained-ongoing-elder-fraud-investigations	Complaint	Kush J. Patel
USAO Rhode Island	*U.S. v. Onyobeno et al.*	1:19cr115	Criminal	Romance Scam	Onyobeno, age 44, and others, created false personas and utilized a variety of online apps and games, such as Words with Friends, or dating applications to befriend and target potential victims. Onyobeno and his co-conspirators would then use fraudulent representations and emotional appeals to gain their victims' trust, in order to convince those victims to send money to help with a purported personal crisis or urgent financial situation. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ri/pr/leader-international-romance-scam-conspiracy-sentenced-more-ten-years-federal-prison	121 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; restitution to be determined at a later date	Dominique Golden

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Rhode Island	*U.S. v. Owen Demoy Byfield*	1:24mj87	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Byfield, age 32, is alleged to have defrauded primarily older individuals through a bogus Publishers Clearing House or similar sweepstakes scam and laundered the proceeds through entities and bank accounts they controlled. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ri/pr/three-charged-multi-state-fraud-and-money-laundering-conspiracy	Complaint	Patrick Dallas, Stacey Robinson
USAO Rhode Island	*U.S. v. Patrick Dallas*	1:24mj88	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Dallas, age 36, is alleged to have defrauded primarily older individuals through a bogus Publishers Clearing House or similar sweepstakes scam and laundered the proceeds through entities and bank accounts they controlled. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ri/pr/three-charged-multi-state-fraud-and-money-laundering-conspiracy	Complaint	Stacey Robinson, Owen Demoy Byfield
USAO Rhode Island	*U.S. v. Stacey Robinson*	1:24mj89	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Robinson, age 28, is alleged to have defrauded primarily older individuals through a bogus Publishers Clearing House or similar sweepstakes scam and laundered the proceeds through entities and bank accounts they controlled. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ri/pr/three-charged-multi-state-fraud-and-money-laundering-conspiracy	Complaint	Patrick Dallas, Owen Demoy Byfield

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Rhode Island	*U.S. v. Elijah Gavin*	25-cr-00057-MSM-AEM	Criminal	Home Construction, Repair, or Renovation Scam	Elijah Gavin, age 29, and others conspired to devise a construction fraud scheme that targeted older homeowners in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, and a church in New York. Gavin and his co-conspirators fraudulently induced property owners to hire the co-conspirators to conduct building repairs that were not needed and were not performed. Gavin and those working with him misrepresented who they were, the qualifications of their construction businesses that they supposedly operated, the need for the services offered, and the work performed. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ri/pr/british-national-pleads-guilty-fraud-money-laundering-and-immigration-charges	Guilty plea	
USAO Rhode Island	*U.S. v. Jennifer Djan*	23-CR-106-JJM	Criminal	Romance Scam	Jennifer O. Djan, age 32, a Ghanian national, conspired with multiple people in the United States and Ghana to launder the proceeds of various internet frauds targeting older adults. Fraudsters in Ghana contacted older Americans to develop romantic relationships, at which point the fraudsters would manufacture a crisis which exploited the victim's emotional vulnerability. Djan's business, J.D. Logistics, was used to launder victim funds. After a deposit, Djan would conduct financial transactions within days to conceal the source, nature and location of the criminal proceeds. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ri/pr/rhode-island-woman-convicted-international-money-laundering-scheme	Guilty verdict	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Rhode Island	*U.S. v. Kush Jitendrakumar Patel*	24-cr-00096	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam; Technical Support Scam	Jirui Liu, age 22, and Kush J. Patel, age 22, are alleged to have engaged in a tech support scam in which members of the conspiracy sent pop-up messages to the computers of older adults, often styled to appear as if they were originating from a well-known technology company, with a number to call for a "live agent." Call receivers falsely claimed to be "representatives" of the victim's financial institutions and/or government agencies, instructing victims to protect their assets by transferring the assets to the government for safekeeping by wire transfers and cryptocurrency transfers, purchase of gold bars, or delivering cash to a courier. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ri/pr/two-individuals-detained-ongoing-elder-fraud-investigations	Indictment	
USAO South Carolina	*U.S. v. Bateman*	1:24cr412	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Bateman, age 50, and Anderson, age 37, allegedly enticed an older woman to leave all her assets to Bateman through a will that designated Anderson as her personal representative. At the time, she did not have the mental capacity to make a knowing and voluntary decision regarding her assets. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sc/pr/aiken-county-men-indicted-bank-fraud	Indictment	
USAO South Dakota	*U.S. v. Anderson*	4:23cr40018	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Anderson, age 35, allegedly participated in a scheme to defraud an older American woman. Using phony names, he contacted the victim by telephone, text message, and email and falsely informed her that she had won millions of dollars in a sweepstakes. Anderson persuaded the victim, who believed the Defendant's false representations, to send money to pay various fees and taxes associated with the sweepstakes. Anderson induced the victim to travel to Jamaica in September 2017 by falsely informing her that she would be able to collect her prize winnings, winnings she did not collect. https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/jamaican-national-extradited-scheme-defraud-american-citizen	Indictment	

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USAO South Dakota	*U.S. v. Eugene Hollow Horn Bear*	3:23-cr-30087	Criminal	Violence	Eugene Hollow Horn Bear was convicted of two counts of abusive sexual contact on a 67-year-old victim. The victim awoke to Hollow Horn Bear touching her vagina and breasts after she had gone to sleep in an abandoned carwash in Mission, South Dakota, within the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation. The victim called out for help and another individual pulled Hollow Horn Bear off the victim and forced him to leave the carwash. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sd/pr/rosebud-man-convicted-abusive-sexual-contact	108 months' imprisonment	
USAO Tennessee, Eastern	*U.S. v. Holmes*	3:22cr115	Criminal	Investment Scam; Government Impersonation Scam	Holmes, age 43, participated in a scheme to defraud older victims. Holmes and others worked to steal money from individuals intending to invest their money, and also posed as federal agents who promised to help the victims recover money lost through investments. Victims were induced to pay fake fees, taxes, and court costs, yet did not receive the return of any lost money. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edtn/pr/federal-jury-convicts-joshua-aaron-holmes-conspiracy-commit-mail-and-wire-fraud	Guilty verdict	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Tennessee, Eastern	*U.S. v. Bandie et al.*	3:22cr117	Criminal	Romance Scam	Bandie, age 34, along with members of the conspiracy, assumed false identities on social media, dating websites, and other internet-based platforms in a scheme to trick primarily older victims into entering friendships or romantic relationships. Bandie then played various roles in exploiting those connections to convince individuals to send them money via wire, check, U.S. mail, and package delivery services. Other co-conspirators functioned as "money mules" in the conspiracy to move the financial proceeds of the scams from the United States overseas through bank wire transfers or through the mail. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edtn/pr/ghanian-man-sentenced-63-months-two-million-dollar-international-wire-fraud-conspiracy	63 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $2.18 million restitution ordered	
USAO Tennessee, Eastern	*U.S. v. Hines et al. (TV3)*	3:22cr33	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Brown, age 24, conspired to defraud a 76-year-old Lenoir City resident out of nearly $700,000 by tricking her into believing she had won millions of dollars in a sweepstakes. Brown and the co-conspirators convinced the victim to pay various fees and taxes to claim the winnings and traveled to Lenoir City to collect funds from the victim. The conspirators then split the proceeds between themselves and others. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edtn/pr/jamaican-man-sentenced-63-months-his-role-conspiracy-defraud-elderly-woman	63 months' imprisonment; 1 year supervised release; $700,000 restitution ordered	Marklyn Antonio Forrester, Jamali Jermaine Ramsay, Jahmarley Kiboki McFarlane, Tessa Nicole Hines
USAO Tennessee, Eastern	*U.S. v. Samuel Bobby Campbell*	2:25-MJ-105	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Conspirators tricked victims into believing that they had won millions of dollars through the Publishers Clearing House Sweepstakes and that victims needed to pay taxes and fees on the winnings prior to collecting their large prize. An 81-year-old east Tennessee man unwittingly paid scammers over $450,000.	Complaint	

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USAO Tennessee, Eastern	*U.S. v. Morice Armani Brown*	3:22-CR-33	Criminal	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam	Brown, a 24-year-old Jamaican national, was part of a group that ran a sweepstakes scam on a 76-year-old victim and conned her out of over $700,000. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edtn/pr/jamaican-man-sentenced-63-months-his-role-conspiracy-defraud-elderly-woman	63 months' imprisonment; 1 year supervised release; nearly $700,000 restitution ordered	
USAO Tennessee, Middle	*U.S. v. Hampton et al.*	3:21cr109	Criminal	Relative/ Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	Karl Hampton, age 65, met the 86-year-old widow living with dementia while he was working as an exterminator for a pest control company. Hampton tricked the woman into believing that he would care for her personally and financially, and held himself out to the woman and others as her “personal representative,” her “son” or “godson,” and pretended that he was acting on her behalf. Hampton convinced her to sign over her power of attorney and to name him in her Revocable Living Trust and in her will. He then methodically drained the woman’s bank accounts, took out a $500,000 line of credit in her name, and amassed huge charges on her credit cards for his own personal expenses, for example, a car and a luxury SUV, a 4.3-karat diamond ring that cost more than $21,000, and often spent over $1,000 per day in cash buying lottery tickets. https://www.justice.gov/usao-mdtn/pr/chattanooga-man-sentenced-60-months-prison-defrauding-elderly-widow-dementia-12	60 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $1.2 million restitution ordered	Deborah Hampton
USAO Tennessee, Middle	*U.S. v. Shatika Swader*	3:24-cv-00999	Civil	Lottery/ Sweepstakes Scam; Romance Scam	Defendant operated as a money mule for Jamaican scammers. Shatika Swader assisted and facilitated one or more fraud schemes by accepting victim payments and providing those payments to participants of the fraud scheme.	Complaint for permanent injunction	

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USAO Tennessee, Western	*U.S. v. Stanley Anyanwu*	24cr20211SHL	Criminal	Business Email Compromise Scam; Business Impersonation Scam; Romance Scam	Stanley Anyanwu, age 41, and Vitalis Anyanwu, age 42, were served with FBI Money Mule Warning Letters in 2019 but continued to engage in money laundering activities. The two brothers served as money mules in a large fraud ring that perpetrated various kinds of internet-based frauds including BECs and romance scams. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdtn/pr/federal-jury-finds-two-men-guilty-conspiracy-commit-wire-and-bank-fraud-and-conspiracy	Guilty verdict	
USAO Texas, Eastern	*U.S. v. Ita et al.*	4:21cr253	Criminal	Business Email Compromise Scam; Romance Scam; Investment Scam; Government Benefits Fraud	Damilola Kumapayi, Sandra Iribhogbe Popnen, Edgal Iribhogbe, Chidindu Okeke, and Chiagoziem Okeke used a multitude of fraudulent schemes to obtain money from their victims, many of whom were older adults, including online romance scams, business email compromise scams, investor fraud, and unemployment insurance fraud. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edtx/pr/conspirators-sentenced-engaging-multitude-fraud-schemes-including-romance-scams	Damilola Kumapayi: 109 months' imprisonment. Sandra Iribhogbe Popnen: 365 months' imprisonment. Edgal Iribhogbe: 480 months' imprisonment. Chidindu Okeke: 480 months' imprisonment. Chiagoziem Okeke: 480 months' imprisonment.	

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USAO Texas, Eastern	*U.S. v. Holts*	1:24cr96	Criminal	Investment Scam; Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Holts, age 54, a financial advisor and stockbroker, was previously a financial advisor at Capital One Bank and World Capital Brokerage. In 2021, Holts opened a bank account in the name "Bradley Morgan Holts dba Invesco Investment Texas" (ITT). Using this account, Holts deceived investors intending to make investments in Invesco, Ltd., a global investment firm, and instead used the client funds for his own personal use. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edtx/pr/orange-texas-man-guilty-federal-violation-investment-scheme	Guilty plea	
USAO Texas, Eastern	*U.S. v. Remedies*	1:23cr89	Criminal	Relative/ Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	Remedies, age 71, was hired as a caretaker for a 91-year-old, bed-ridden woman on hospice. Remedies was authorized to use the victim's debit card for one-time purchases, such as personal need items and groceries. The victim reported that Remedies had unlawfully withdrew money from her account utilizing her debit card. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edtx/pr/caregiver-sentenced-federal-prison-stealing-elderly-hardin-county-woman	8 months' imprisonment; $24,887.75 restitution ordered	
USAO Texas, Eastern	*U.S. v. $1,098,699.64 in U.S. Currency*	6:24CV30	Civil	Investment Scam; Romance Scam	Money mule for international fraudsters.	Monetary judgement of $1098699.64; Default judgment of forfeiture	
USAO Texas, Eastern	*U.S. v. $367,026.14 in U.S. Currency*	6:25CV114	Civil	Investment Scam; Romance Scam	Money mule for international fraudsters.	Court issued Order for Warrant of Arrest in rem	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Texas, Eastern	*U.S. v. $271,000 in U.S. Currency*	6:25CV52	Civil	Investment Scam; Romance Scam	Money mule for international fraudsters.	Monetary judgement of $133,000; Parties entered into agreement for consent judgment and have filed a motion with the court to accept agreement and enter consent decree	
USAO Texas, Eastern	*U.S. v. 649,907.670148 USDT in Cryptocurrency*	6:25CV79	Civil	Investment Scam; Romance Scam	Money mule for international fraudsters.	Monetary judgement of $649907.670148; Parties entered into an agreement for consent judgment and have filed a motion for the court to accept the agreement and enter consent decree	
USAO Texas, Northern	*U.S. v. Mahbub Hossain*	3:24-cr-342	Criminal	Investment Scam	One Defendant charged in connection with an investment fraud scam in which three victims lost approximately $400,000.	Indictment	

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USAO Texas, Southern	*U.S. v. Akporugo et al.*	4:24cr9	Criminal	Romance Scam	Darlington Akporugo, age 47, and his co-conspirators targeted older women, including widows, using fake names on social media to gain victims' trust and persuade them to invest in non-existent businesses or provide funds for invented personal circumstances. Akporugo admitted to directing victims - mostly older individuals - to send money through platforms like Facebook. The funds were spent extravagantly or passed to co-Defendants. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdtx/pr/romance-scheme-fraudsters-sentenced-3-million-conspiracy	Darlington Akporugo: 188 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release. Jasmin Sood: 121 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release. $3,123,073 restitution ordered.	Jasmin Sood
USAO Texas, Southern	*U.S. v. Patel et al.*	4:23cr218	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	Hardik Jayantilal Patel, age 37, led a team of domestic money mules. They laundered money tied to telemarketing fraud schemes originating from call centers in India, targeting older adults. Scammers pretended to work for the United States government and claimed the victims were under investigation. They claimed the only way to clear their name was to send cash by mail. Money mules in the United States would then pick up the packages and launder the cash. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdtx/pr/illegal-alien-sentenced-multimillion-dollar-elder-fraud-ring	46 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $3,203,478 restitution ordered	Sohil Usmangani Vahora, Zaheen Malvi, Dhirenkumar Patel
USAO Texas, Southern	*U.S. v. Vahora et al.*	4:22cr440	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam; Money Mule	Vahora, age 39, managed a team of domestic money mules. He received work from call centers in India that were perpetrating telemarketing scams targeting older adults in the United States. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdtx/pr/ringleader-imprisoned-almost-16-years-after-laundering-millions-indian-call-center	188 months' imprisonment; $3,541,258 restitution ordered	Zaheen Rafikbhai Malvi

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USAO Texas, Southern	*U.S. v. Hall*	4:22cr450	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Hall, age 58, was employed as a manager at Prairie View Federal Credit Union. Hall purposefully maintained an antiquated business practice which would not allow customers to access their accounts online. Hall admitted she was able to and did access at least two older customer accounts and misappropriated their funds for her own personal gain. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdtx/pr/former-credit-union-manager-imprisoned-embezzling-over-200000-elderly-clients	24 months' imprisonment; $211,563.12 restitution ordered	
USAO Texas, Southern	*U.S. v. Talib Smith*	4:23-cr-252	Criminal	Violence	Defendant carjacked and kidnapped an older woman.	Guilty verdict	
USAO Texas, Southern	*U.S. v. Moses Daniel*	4:23-cr-369	Criminal	Romance Scam	Brothers Moses Daniel and Ufuoma Daniel, Nigerian nationals, are alleged to be part of a trade-based money laundering operation that received cash proceeds from internet scams originating from Nigeria.	Superseding indictment	Kelly Anidi
USAO Texas, Southern	*U.S. v. Leonel Hopkins*	4:24-cr-184	Criminal	Investment Scam	Lenel Hopkins, age 52, and co-conspirators purporting to run a Christian investment company induced an older man to pay $300,000 to establish a vocational school and promised a return of $13 million. https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdtx/pr/members-religious-based-company-charged-elder-fraud-scheme-against-wwii-veteran	Guilty verdict	Antoinette Monique Hopkins, Alichia Webster, Neil John Halvorson, Victor Evans, Jr.

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USAO Texas, Western	*U.S. v. Patel et al.*	1:24cr211	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	Kishan Rajeshkumar Patel, 20, an Indian national, conspired with co-Defendant Dhruv Rajeshbhai Mangukiya and others to defraud older victims out of hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash and gold. The conspiracy used various online phishing methods and impersonated United States government officials, while Patel fraudulently received the cash and gold from victims, conveying a portion to co-conspirators and keeping a percentage for his own benefit. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdtx/pr/indian-national-sentenced-federal-prison-defrauding-elderly-americans-while-student	63 months' imprisonment	Dhruv Rajeshbhai Mangukiya
USAO Texas, Western	*U.S. v. Mohammed*	1:24cr92	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam; Money Mule	Mohammed, age 34, engaged in a conspiracy to launder proceeds of a scheme to defraud older victims out of hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash and gold. Mohammed was a courier who picked up the cash and gold from vulnerable older people. The international conspiracy originated from India and involved the impersonation of government officials in order to convince the victims to turn over millions of dollars from their retirement and savings accounts. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdtx/pr/indian-national-sentenced-8-years-federal-prison-defrauding-elderly-victims-nearly-6	97 months' imprisonment; $960,000 restitution ordered; $20,000 forfeiture; $16,000 monetary judgement	
USAO Texas, Western	*U.S. v. Brooklynn Chandler Willy*	24-CR-600	Criminal	Investment Scam	Investment fraud scheme whereby Defendant is alleged to have targeted primarily older investors and stole their investment.	Indictment	
USAO Texas, Western	*U.S. v. Jesus Rodriguez de la Cruz*	23-CR-02507	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Jesus Rodriguez de la Cruz was a financial advisor who embezzled millions of dollars from his customers, many of whom were older and vulnerable victims. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdtx/pr/former-financial-advisor-sentenced-12-years-federal-prison-multi-million-fraud-scheme	144 months' imprisonment	

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USAO Texas, Western	*U.S. v. Thakkar*	25-CR-258	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	Bhavesh Kumar Thakkar is alleged to be involved in a scheme in which call centers in India contacted potential victims in the United States, largely older individuals, using a variety of scams to get victims to convert their assets to gold or cash and allow the "government" to hold their assets for safekeeping. Thakkar is alleged to have coordinated the receipt of victim property from couriers nationwide, and coordinated his activities with co-conspirators in foreign countries.	Indictment	
USAO Texas, Western	*U.S. v. Yorlena Cuesta*	24-CR-00476	Criminal	Timeshare or Timeshare Resale Scam	Defendant is alleged to have devised a timeshare scam targeting older victims.	Indictment	
USAO Utah	*U.S. v. Kenny Dirk Van Der Spek*	2:25-cr-103	Criminal	Investment Scam	Defendant Kenny Dirk Van Der Spek allegedly used K&K Strategies, a Utah limited liability company that he owned and managed, to target victims who were not wealthy and to fraudulently obtain investment funds from them for a hedge fund that, in fact, was part of a Ponzi scheme. A number of older adults cashed out their retirement savings to invest, and several discussed skimping nickels and dimes their whole lives to put together a couple hundred thousand dollars to invest.	Information	
USAO Utah	*U.S. v. Princess Eziyi*	2:22-cr-160	Criminal	Romance Scam	Defendants engaged in a scheme to steal millions of dollars from mostly older women who were widowed, divorced and emotionally and financially vulnerable.	12 months' imprisonment	
USAO Utah	*U.S. v. Thomas Fairbanks*	2:24-cr-81	Criminal	Failure to Appear for Fraud Sentencing	Defendant gained a position of trust with one older victim and drained her bank accounts of her life savings, savings she earned working as teacher, bus driver, and small business owner. He then failed to appear for his sentencing, and was charged for that derivative conduct.	Guilty verdict	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Vermont	*U.S. v. West et al.*	2:25cr19	Criminal	Grandparent/ Relative in Distress Scam	The 25 Defendants (Gareth West, Usman Khalid, Andrew Tatto, Stephan Moskwyn, Ricky Ylimaki, Richard Frischman, Adam Lawrence, Michael Filion, Jimmy Ylimaki, Nicolas Gonzalez, Ryan Melanson, Joy Kalafatidis, David Arcobelli, Jonathan Massouras, Nicholas Shiomi, Antonio Iannacci, Jonathan Ouellet, Kassey-Lee Lankford, Sara Burns, Justin Polenz, Ryan Thibert, Michael Farella, Sebastian Guenole, Ryan Bridgman, Stephanie-Marie Samaras) allegedly engaged in a grandparent scam involving phone calls made from call centers in and around Montreal, Québec, to older citizens in the United States. During these phone calls, Defendants falsely claimed to be an older victim's relative, typically a grandchild, who had been arrested following a car crash and needed money for "bail." Other Defendants posed as an "attorney" representing the older victim's relative. Conspirators, falsely posing as a bail bondsman, would come to the older victim's home to collect the money which was later transmitted to Canada. https://www.justice.gov/usao-vt/pr/25-canadian-nationals-charged-vermont-connection-nationwide-multimillion-dollar	Indictment	Otmane Khalladi, Jean Richard Audate, Philippe Alvarez, Paul Conneh, Dave Leblanc, Zavier Buchanan, William Comfort, Alejandro Garcia, Enmanuel Castillo
USAO Vermont	*U.S. v. Russell*	2:24cr65	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Russell, age 42, befriended her older victim who had lost a son. Russell built rapport with the victim by calling her "mom" and falsely telling her that Russell herself had lost a child. The older victim gave Russell a power of attorney that was eventually misused for the benefit of Russell. https://www.justice.gov/usao-vt/pr/barre-vermont-woman-pleads-guilty-wire-fraud-elder-victim	Guilty plea	

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USAO Vermont	*U.S. v. Melanson*	2:22cr98	Criminal	Money Mule	Serving as a money mule, Melanson, age 42, traveled on five different occasions from New Hampshire, where he lived and worked, to the residence of an older woman in Windsor, Vermont, where he picked her up and drove her to one or more banks where she had accounts. Once at the banks, she made withdrawals and conducted other transactions, and Melanson obtained checks and/or cash from her. Melanson had never met the woman previously and only interacted with her those five times. He quickly observed that she was confused, opined that she was "starting to have Alzheimer's," and believed she was not able to make informed decisions about large financial transactions without guidance and instruction from someone else. https://www.justice.gov/usao-vt/pr/manchester-new-hampshire-man-sentenced-prison-elder-fraud-offense	6 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $1,500 restitution ordered	

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USAO Vermont	*U.S. v. Gareth West*	2:25-cr-00019-wks	Criminal	Grandparent/ Relative in Distress Scam	Between the summer of 2021 and June 4, 2024, the Defendants allegedly engaged in a grandparent scam involving phone calls made from call centers in and around Montreal, Québec. During these phone calls, Defendants falsely claimed to be an elderly victim's relative, typically a grandchild, who had been arrested following a car crash and needed money for "bail." https://www.justice.gov/usao-vt/pr/25-canadian-nationals-charged-vermont-connection-nationwide-multimillion-dollar	Indictment	Usman Khalid, Andrew Tatto, Stephan Moskwyn, Ricky Ylimaki, Richard Frischman, Adam Lawrence, Michael Filion, Jimmy Ylimaki, Nicolas Gonzalez, Ryan Melanson, Joy Kalafatidis, David Arcobelli, Jonathan Massouras, Nicholas Shiomi, Antonio Iannacci, Jonathan Ouellet, Kassey-Lee Lankford, Sara Burns, Justin Polenz, Ryan Thibert, Michael Farella, Sebastian Guenole, Ryan Bridgman, Stephanie-Marie Samaras

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USAO Virginia, Eastern	*U.S. v. Liang et al.*	1:24cr170	Criminal	Technical Support Scam	Liang, age 42, and Li, age 36, opened bank accounts for fictitious businesses for the purpose of laundering proceeds from a nationwide tech support scam or other similar elder fraud scheme, operated by their co-conspirators. Unsuspecting older victims who logged onto their computer to use one or more online services from various corporations were falsely advised that they were the victim of purported criminal or technical issues with their accounts and to address these issues they were required to wire money to business accounts controlled by the conspirators. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edva/pr/two-men-sentenced-over-seven-years-prison-laundering-proceeds-elder-fraud-scheme	87 months' imprisonment	
USAO Virginia, Western	*U.S. v. Criminal Complaint for Forfeiture in Rem*	1:25-cv-00016	Civil	Romance Scam	An older woman met a man online who asked for help setting up a music equipment rental business. Victim obtained an EIN and set up bank account for the business then acted a money mule moving money around.	Judgment of forfeiture	
USAO Virginia, Western	*U.S. v. $305,270.82*	1:24-cr-00059	Civil	Romance Scam	An older woman met a man on an online dating website who asked her to assist in setting up a rental car business. Victim obtained an EIN and set up bank accounts for the purported business. Victim then acted as a money mule for her "boyfriend" moving money through the accounts.	Judgment of forfeiture	

Component	Case Name	Case Number	Case Type	Type of Offense	Case Description and Press Release URL	Outcome	Non-Lead Defendant(s)
USAO Virginia, Western	*U.S. v. Melissa Diane Simmons*	7:25-mj-108 & 7:25-mj-109	Criminal	Relative/ Caregiver Fraud or Embezzlement	Between August 2023 and December 2023, Melissa Simmons, age 49, and James Brown, age 58, allegedly withdrew tens of thousands of dollars from the account of 75-year-old Ronald Eugene Harris, a disabled Navy veteran, purported caregivers of Mr. Harris. At the time, Harris did not have the capacity to manage his finances or understand what Simmons and Brown were doing. Additionally, between January and March 2024, Simmons and Brown forged Harris' name on four of his VA disability checks, deposited the funds, and later used Harris' ATM card to make various purchases.	Complaint	
USAO Washington, Western	*U.S. v. Jeong Lee*	2:25cr39	Criminal	Investment Scam	Lee, age 52, allegedly held herself out as an experienced investment advisor to older members of the Korean community. Lee created various business entities with names that made it seem like they were financial investment companies. Lee opened and controlled bank accounts for these shell companies and used the funds from investors for her expenses, her family's expenses, or to pay off earlier investors in the style of a Ponzi scheme. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdwa/pr/federal-way-washington-woman-indicted-bank-and-wire-fraud-fake-investment-scheme	Indictment	

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USAO Washington, Western	*U.S. v. Winslow*	3:25cr5078	Criminal	Investment Scam; Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Winslow, age 56, a former financial advisor at a national financial services firm, allegedly moved funds out of his former client's (a woman in her 70s) brokerage accounts with the financial services firm and into her outside bank account in multiple transactions. He did this to conceal his fraud by placing the victim's funds outside of the firm's surveillance system. From the victim's outside bank account, the funds were transferred into Winslow's bank accounts that he used to upgrade his lifestyle. He achieved this goal by visiting the victim at her home and instructing the victim to call the bank and put the call on speaker. He then told the victim what she should tell the bank. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdwa/pr/fox-island-washington-man-indicted-stealing-more-920000-elderly-financial-advisory	Indictment	
USAO Washington, Western	*U.S. v. McDonagh et al.*	2:24cr120	Criminal	Home Construction, Repair, or Renovation Scam	Brothers Patrick McDonagh, age 35, and Matthew McDonagh, age 34, were part of a group that traveled the country engaging in a variety of home repair scams, especially targeting older homeowners, for example, by falsely representing that a home needed urgent repairs. Each day they pressured the older victim to write more checks. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdwa/pr/irish-brothers-sentenced-18-months-prison-defrauding-elderly-homeowners-across-country	18 months' imprisonment; $1,033,000 restitution ordered	

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USAO Washington, Western	*U.S. v. Young et al.*	2:24cr176	Criminal	Government Impersonation Scam	Young, age 47, allegedly used the jail phone system to place calls to veterans' facilities. He would ask to be transferred to a particular medical facility so that the medical facility would not know that the call was from an inmate. Once connected to the medical facility, Young allegedly posed as a Veterans Affairs (VA) employee who needed information about the various patients currently in the Intensive Care Unit. Once Young obtained the information, he would call the veteran and pretend to be a VA employee calling with information about benefits to be deposited to the veteran's bank account. Once Young and Williams had that account information from the veteran, they used it to steal funds from the victims' accounts and transfer them to accounts they controlled. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdwa/pr/pair-who-targeted-seriously-ill-veterans-fraud-indicted-conspiracy-wire-fraud-and	Indictment	Aqeelah Ngiesha Williams
USAO West Virginia, Northern	*U.S. v. Beach*	3:23cr66	Criminal	Fiduciary (e.g., guardian, POA) Fraud or Embezzlement	Beach, age 51, was the fiduciary for his father, who is under the care of a veterans' facility and receives monthly benefits. As the fiduciary, Beach received his father's VA disability, retirement, and social security payments but used those funds for his own benefit. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndwv/pr/berkeley-county-man-sentenced-elder-financial-abuse	41 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release; $253,876.12 restitution ordered	
USAO West Virginia, Northern	*U.S. v. Lantz*	2:23cr13	Criminal	Identity Theft	Lantz, age 31, transferred funds from an older man's bank accounts for her own benefit. Lantz also used the man's identifying information to open credit cards for her personal use. https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndwv/pr/texas-woman-sentenced-defrauding-elderly-west-virginia-man	6 months' imprisonment; 3 years supervised release	

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USAO Wisconsin, Eastern	*U.S. v. Umukoro et al.*	2:23cr98	Criminal	Romance Scam	Otaniyen Iduozee, a Nigerian citizen who came to the United States on a student visa, was a money launderer for a conspiracy targeting primarily older and vulnerable Americans through romance scams. Iduozee established and controlled numerous fraudulent bank accounts through which millions of dollars of victims' funds were laundered and engaged in laundering transactions that were designed to, and did, remit the victims' funds back to Nigeria. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edwi/pr/nigerian-citizen-sentenced-fraud-and-money-laundering-case	42 months' imprisonment; Removal from the United States upon sentence completion	
USAO Wisconsin, Western	*U.S. v. Ramos-Soto*	3:23cr103	Criminal	Grandparent/ Relative in Distress Scam	Ramos-Soto, age 27, was part of a network of individuals perpetrating related grandparent schemes across the United States. Co-conspirators operating outside the United States called older victims posing as a relative or relative's attorney requiring bail money. Ramos-Soto was a courier posing as a bail bondsman and picking up the funds from the victims' residences. https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdwi/pr/connecticut-man-sentenced-prison-role-grandparent-scheme	41 months' imprisonment; $250,000 restitution ordered	