



Department of Justice

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MONEY MULE INITIATIVE FACT SHEET

Since October 1, 2018, the Department of Justice and its law enforcement partners across the country have taken targeted actions to disrupt, investigate, and prosecute money mule activity used to facilitate fraud schemes, especially those victimizing senior citizens. The actions varied, based on evidence collected as to each individual money mule's conduct. The following is a list of highlights:

- Actions were taken to halt the conduct of over 400 money mules, spanning over 65 federal districts.
- Actions addressed a variety of elder fraud scheme types, including grandparent scams, romance scams, lottery scams, IRS imposter scams, and technical support scams.
- FBI agents and U.S. Postal Inspectors interviewed over 300 individuals who recently served as money mules for fraud schemes.
- FBI agents and U.S. Postal Inspectors served 300 warning letters on individuals who recently served as money mules for fraud schemes. The letters informed recipients that they could be prosecuted if they continue aiding and abetting fraud schemes.
- Over 10 individuals were criminally charged, in part, for their roles in receiving victim payments and providing the fraud proceeds to accomplices. These cases are summarized below.
- The Department of Justice filed over 25 civil and administrative actions seeking to stop defendants from helping fraud schemes by receiving money from victims and forwarding the proceeds to perpetrators.
- Search warrants were executed to secure evidence from money mules who knowingly aided and abetted elder fraud schemes, including one in the Southern District of Iowa.

Criminal actions taken as part of the money mule initiative include:

- Charges against defendants engaged in IRS imposter and payday loan imposter schemes that used money mules to receive victim payments and transmit proceeds to co-conspirators in India. *United States v. Shah*, 18-cr-468 (M.D. Fla) ([October 11, 2018](#)).
- Charges against a defendant who received and forwarded proceeds of a romance scam that defrauded victims out of over \$800,000. *United States v. Ogolor*, 18-cr-308 (W.D. MO) ([October 22, 2018](#)) - <https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdmo/pr/kc-man-charged-900000-romance-fraud-scheme>

- Charges against a Ghana native who received and forwarded proceeds of a romance scam that defrauded victims out of over \$5 million. *United States v. Asomani*, 18-mj-518 (E.D. Va) ([October 26, 2018](#)) - <https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdmo/pr/ghana-native-indicted-5-million-romance-fraud-scheme> (prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Missouri).

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