



U. S. Department of Justice

**Daniel P. Bubar**

*Acting United States Attorney*

*Eastern District of North Carolina*

U.S. Attorney's Office  
150 Fayetteville Street  
Suite 2100  
Raleigh, NC 27601

Telephone (919) 856-4530  
Criminal FAX (919) 856-4487  
Civil FAX (919) 856-4821  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/nce](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nce)

April 2, 2025

Re: *United States v. 4,992,845.06 USDT Virtual Currency*  
U.S. District Court No. 5:24-CV-634-FL

Dear Owner of Cryptocurrency Wallet

0xF6438DeD9Eb47AAB9d41664664F201B498f905D6  
0x6275Ca02c006E843b11FF9ea3c4d2a051a170e61  
0x8b10c643D42374D63824a39932c3e66c5f07E3F4  
0xc48436c1674EFcFe8fb8E96c3F6504324dD6D50e  
0x1291bF41339300ebDBB4B289143b6d5f373ab553  
0x06Ecb24C52C2d606d4F52ba9B7987002f0915CDc  
0x874071288290361738Ea12Cd1389f4bcB4875eF3  
0xD9B56f584EE14eA1Bc8712D0335fbb63E26AE693  
0xDc35cE037722e2196a8B3eB9da64648Bc0E037C8:

Enclosed is a copy of the Complaint for Forfeiture *In Rem* and associated Warrant of Arrest and Notice. Our records indicate that you may have an interest in the property referenced in the attached documents.

Please consider this effective service of direct notice of this civil judicial forfeiture action upon you in accordance with Rule G(4)(b)(iii)(B) of the Supplemental Rules for Admiralty or Maritime and Asset Forfeiture Claims.

In order to protect your interest, you may file a proper Claim with the Office of the Clerk, United States District Court, Eastern District of North Carolina, P.O. Box 25670, Raleigh, North Carolina 27611, in accordance with the directions set forth in the enclosed Warrant of Arrest and Notice, no later than May 7, 2025, which is thirty-five (35) days from the date of the sending of this notice, in accordance with Supplemental Rule G(5). Failure to file within the applicable time will result in the loss of your right to preserve your interest.

In addition to or in lieu of filing a Claim with the Court, you may assert an interest in the property by submitting a petition for remission or mitigation pursuant to 28 C.F.R. Section 9. The <https://www.forfeiture.gov/FilingPetition.htm> website provides access to a standard petition for remission form that may be mailed and the link to file a petition for remission online. If you cannot find the desired assets online, you must file your petition for remission in writing with this office by sending it to my attention. This website provides answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) about filing a petition for remission. A sample Petition for Remission/Mitigation Form has been enclosed for your convenience.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

DANIEL P. BUBAR  
Acting United States Attorney

*/s/ Katherine A. King*  
KATHERINE A. KING  
Assistant United States Attorney  
Civil Division

KAK/bh

Attachments

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA  
WESTERN DIVISION

NO. 5:24-CV-634

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	COMPLAINT FOR FORFEITURE
	)	<i>IN REM</i>
4,992,845.06 USDT VIRTUAL	)	
CURRENCY,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

The United States of America, by and through the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina, states as follows:

1. This is a civil action *in rem* brought to enforce the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) providing for the forfeiture of property which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to any offense constituting "specified unlawful activity" as defined in 18 U.S.C. §§ 1956(c)(7) and 1961(1) or a conspiracy to commit such offense, including violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1343 (Wire Fraud); as well as 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(A) providing for the forfeiture of any property, real or personal, involved in a transaction or attempted transaction in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956 (Money Laundering), or any property traceable to such property.

2. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this matter by virtue of 28 U.S.C. §§ 1345 and 1355(a). The Court has *in rem* jurisdiction

by virtue of 28 U.S.C. § 1355(b). Venue in this district is proper by virtue of 28 U.S.C. §§ 1355(b)(1)(A) and/or 1395.

3. The defendant is 4,992,845.06 USDT virtual currency.

4. The defendant was seized from the following nine unhosted Tether cryptocurrency wallets and brought into government custody pursuant to a federal seizure warrant on August 12, 2024:

	Seized Wallet Addresses	Amount Received (USDT)
a	0xF6438DeD9Eb47AAB9d41664664F201B498f905D6	500,000.00
b	0x6275Ca02c006E843b11FF9ea3c4d2a051a170e61	684,279.00
c	0x8b10c643D42374D63824a39932c3e66c5f07E3F4	500,000.00
d	0xc48436c1674EFcFe8fb8E96c3F6504324dD6D50e	500,000.00
e	0x1291bF41339300ebDBB4B289143b6d5f373ab553	500,000.05
f	0x06Ecb24C52C2d606d4F52ba9B7987002f0915CDc	500,000.00
g	0x874071288290361738Ea12Cd1389f4bcB4875eF3	500,000.00
h	0xD9B56f584EE14eA1Bc8712D0335fbb63E26AE693	999,742.01
i	0xDc35cE037722e2196a8B3eB9da64648Bc0E037C8	<u>308,824.00</u>
		4,992,845.06

Custody of the defendant is currently located in a single unhosted wallet controlled by the United States Marshal Service, within the jurisdiction of this Court.

5. The potential claimants in this action are Chen Fui Fong and Zheng Lee.

6. The facts and circumstances supporting the seizure and forfeiture of the defendant are contained in Exhibit A, Declaration of David Harding, Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. Such facts constitute probable cause for the seizure, arrest, and forfeiture of the defendant property and are sufficient to support a reasonable belief that the government will meet its burden of proof at trial that the defendant property should be forfeited.

7. The defendant is forfeitable to the United States pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(A) and (C).

WHEREFORE, in accordance with Supplemental Rule G(3)(b)(i), the plaintiff requests that the Clerk issue a warrant of arrest *in rem* for the defendant; that due notice be given to all parties to appear and show cause why the forfeiture should not be decreed; that judgment be entered declaring the defendant be forfeited to the United States of America for disposition according to law; and that the United States of America be granted such other relief as this Court may deem just and proper, together with the costs and disbursements of this action.

*[SECTION INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]*

Respectfully submitted this 8th day of November, 2024.

MICHAEL F. EASELY, JR.  
United States Attorney

BY: /s/ Katherine A. King  
KATHERINE A. KING  
Assistant United States Attorney  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
Civil Division  
150 Fayetteville Street, Suite 2100  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
Telephone: (919) 856-4530  
Facsimile: (919) 856-4821  
E-mail: [katie.king@usdoj.gov](mailto:katie.king@usdoj.gov)  
NC State Bar No. 44525

BY: /s/ Michael G. James  
MICHAEL G. JAMES  
Assistant United States Attorney  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
Civil Division  
150 Fayetteville Street, Suite 2100  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
Telephone: (919) 856-4530  
Facsimile: (919) 856-4821  
E-mail: [mike.james@usdoj.gov](mailto:mike.james@usdoj.gov)  
N.Y. Reg. No. 2481414

### VERIFICATION

I, David Harding, Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, declare under penalty of perjury, as provided by 28 U.S.C. § 1746, that the foregoing Complaint for Forfeiture is based on reports and information known and/or furnished to me and to the best of my information and belief, is true and correct.

This the 6 day of November, 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Harding', is written over a horizontal line.

David Harding  
Special Agent  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

## **DECLARATION OF SPECIAL AGENT DAVID HARDING**

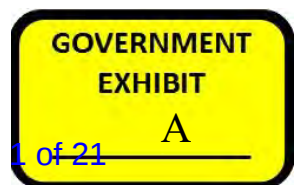
I, Special Agent David Harding with the Federal Bureau of Investigation assigned to the Charlotte, North Carolina Field Office with duty in the Raleigh Resident Agency, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 and the laws of the United States, hereby declares under penalty of perjury that the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief:

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. This declaration is made in support of a complaint to forfeit funds previously seized from nine unhosted Tether cryptocurrency wallets. These wallets contained proceeds and/or comingled funds of a cryptocurrency investment fraud scheme, whereby one or more criminal fraudsters used a fraudulent cryptocurrency exchange to commit wire fraud by inducing victims known as K.W. and J.B. to send money to cryptocurrency wallets controlled by the fraudsters. Once they received the cryptocurrency, it was rapidly transferred to numerous other cryptocurrency wallets. The FBI previously obtained a seizure warrant pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(b) to bring traceable proceeds and other comingled funds involved in money laundering into government custody and now submit this declaration to support the funds' forfeiture.

### **DECLARANT'S BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE**

2. I am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation assigned to the Charlotte, North Carolina Field Office with duty in the Raleigh Resident Agency. I have been employed as a Special Agent with the FBI since 2012 and worked a variety of federal criminal investigations, including but not limited to complex financial crimes. This training included instruction in general law enforcement and criminal investigations to include violations of Title 18, United States Code, section 1343 (Wire Fraud) and section 1956 (money laundering).





3. In my official capacity as a Special Agent, I have obtained the information set forth in this declaration through personal knowledge and/or directly from persons having knowledge of the facts of this case, including, as relevant, from speaking with, or review of sources of information or other law enforcement personnel.

### **PURPOSE OF THE DECLARATION**

4. I make this declaration in support of the civil forfeiture of the proceeds of a criminal scheme to defraud K.W. and J.B. executed in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343 and co-mingled funds that were involved in the unlawful laundering of such property in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956. Specifically, this declaration supports the civil forfeiture of the following assets contained in unhosted Tether wallets that were previously seized and brought into government custody on August 12, 2024. As part of the Tether-specific exemption to the MLAT requirement, Tether transferred all cryptocurrency totaling 4,992,845.06 USDT from the wallets to be seized to a new unhosted wallet before they transferred the cryptocurrency to an FBI created wallet. Tether then destroyed those seized wallets. Once that transfer to the FBI was complete, the entire proceeds were transferred to a wallet controlled by the U.S. Marshal Service pending forfeiture. The seized wallets and amounts are listed below:

	Seized Wallet Addresses	Amount Received (USDT)
a	0xF6438DeD9Eb47AAB9d41664664F201B498f905D6	500,000.00
b	0x6275Ca02c006E843b11FF9ea3c4d2a051a170e61	684,279.00
c	0x8b10c643D42374D63824a39932c3e66c5f07E3F4	500,000.00
d	0xc48436c1674EFcFe8fb8E96c3F6504324dD6D50e	500,000.00
e	0x1291bF41339300ebDBB4B289143b6d5f373ab553	500,000.05
f	0x06Ecb24C52C2d606d4F52ba9B7987002f0915CDc	500,000.00
g	0x874071288290361738Ea12Cd1389f4bcB4875eF3	500,000.00
h	0xD9B56f584EE14eA1Bc8712D0335fbb63E26AE693	999,742.01
i	0xDc35cE037722e2196a8B3eB9da64648Bc0E037C8	308,824.00
		<hr/> 4,992,845.06

5. As explained below, the foregoing funds represent directly traceable criminal proceeds and/or money involved in the laundering of those proceeds, which were derived from a criminal fraud scheme that successfully defrauded K.W. and J.B. by impersonating a legitimate cryptocurrency exchange and inducing K.W. and J.B. to transfer VC belonging to them to wallets in control of the fraudster(s).

### **BACKGROUND OF CRYPTOCURRENCY**

6. Based on my training, research, education, and experience, I am familiar with the following relevant terms and definitions:

a. *Cryptocurrency and Blockchain Generally*: Cryptocurrency, a type of virtual currency, is a decentralized, peer-to-peer, network-based medium of value or exchange that may be used as a substitute for fiat currency to buy goods or services or exchanged for fiat currency or other cryptocurrencies. Examples of cryptocurrency are Bitcoin, Tether, USD Coin, and DAI. Each unit of cryptocurrency is often referred to as a “coin” or “token.” In general, most cryptocurrencies are considered fungible assets. For example, Bitcoin is considered fungible because each unit of Bitcoin is equivalent to any other unit, meaning they have the same quality and functionality. Regardless of when a unit of Bitcoin was issued (“mined”), all Bitcoin units are part of the same blockchain and have the same functionality. Cryptocurrency can exist digitally on the Internet, in an electronic storage device, or in cloud-based servers. Users of cryptocurrency use public and private keys to transfer cryptocurrency from one person or place to another. A public key is typically a set of numbers and/or letters that a cryptocurrency user shares with other users to engage in a transaction in cryptocurrency, whereas a private key is typically a set of numbers and/or letters that the user of an account maintains privately to access his or her cryptocurrency. Cryptocurrency can be exchanged directly person to person, through a cryptocurrency exchange,

or through other intermediaries. Generally, cryptocurrency is not issued by any government, bank, or company; it is instead generated and controlled through computer software operating on a decentralized peer-to-peer network. As such, most cryptocurrencies have a “blockchain,” which is a distributed public ledger, run by the decentralized network, containing an immutable and historical record of every transaction.<sup>1</sup> Although many cryptocurrencies are or purport to be pseudonymous, often law enforcement and currency exchangers can use the blockchain to analyze transactions in cryptocurrency, identify individuals who are using cryptocurrency platforms for illicit purposes, and trace fraud proceeds from victims to one or more exchanges or wallets.

b. *Wallets*: Cryptocurrency is often stored in a virtual account called a wallet, which can exist in, among other forms, an external computer device, a computer, on an application, or online. Wallets are software programs that interface with blockchains and generate and/or store public and private keys used to send and receive cryptocurrency. Access to a wallet and the cryptocurrency therein is typically protected by a password only known to the owner or user of the wallet. Wallets can be either “custodial” or “non-custodial” (also referred to as “centralized/decentralized” or “hosted/non-hosted”). In the case of a non-custodial wallet, the owner of the wallet has sole control of the wallet’s private keys, which enable access to the wallet and any funds contained therein. With a custodial wallet, another party controls the private keys to the wallet. This is usually a cryptocurrency exchange, and the relationship between the exchange and the customer can be considered analogous to the relationship between a traditional bank and its customers, where the bank securely maintains funds deposited by a bank customer.

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<sup>1</sup> Some cryptocurrencies operate on blockchains that are not public and operate in such a way to obfuscate transactions, making it difficult to trace or attribute transactions.

c. *Exchanges/Exchangers*: Virtual currency “exchangers” and “exchanges” (also referred to as a “Virtual Asset Service Provider” [VASP]), such as Binance, Coinbase, Kraken, and Crypto.com, are individuals or companies that exchange virtual currency for other currencies, including U.S. dollars. Exchanges facilitate the purchase, sale, and transfer of a variety of digital currencies.

d. *Centralized/Decentralized Exchanges*: Centralized exchanges generally maintain a custodial role for the wallets of its customers, and function as trusted intermediaries in cryptocurrency transactions. Decentralized exchanges consist of peer-to-peer marketplaces where users can trade cryptocurrencies in a non-custodial manner, without the need for an intermediary to facilitate the transfer and custody of funds. Decentralized exchanges are often used to trade, or “swap”, one type of cryptocurrency for another, for which the user pays a transaction fee. Centralized exchanges that conduct business in the United States are required to verify their customers’ identities and abide by Know-Your-Customer/Anti-Money Laundering (KYC/AML) regulations.

e. *Tether*: Tether, widely known as “USDT,” is a blockchain-based cryptocurrency whose tokens in circulation are backed by an equivalent amount of U.S. dollars, making it what is known as a “stablecoin.” USDT is issued by Tether Ltd., a company headquartered in Hong Kong. Tether is connected to Bitfinex, a cryptocurrency exchange registered in the British Virgin Islands.

f. USDT is hosted on the Ethereum and Bitcoin blockchains, among others. Ethereum (“ETH”) is a cryptocurrency that is open source, public, has a blockchain, and is distributed on a platform that uses “smart contract” technology. The public ledger is the digital trail of the Ethereum blockchain, which allows anyone to track the movement of ETH. Smart contracts allow developers to create markets, store registries of debts, and move funds in accordance with the

instructions provided in the contract's code, without any type of middleman or counterparty controlling a desired or politically motivated outcome, all while using the Ethereum blockchain protocol to maintain transparency. Smart contract technology is one of Ethereum's distinguishing characteristics and an important tool for companies or individuals executing trades on the Ethereum blockchain. When engaged, smart contracts automatically execute according to the terms of the contract written into lines of code. A transaction contemplated by a smart contract occurs on the Ethereum blockchain and is both trackable and irreversible.

g. Like other virtual currencies, USDT is sent to and received from USDT "addresses." A USDT address is somewhat analogous to a bank account number and is represented as a 26-to 35-character-long case-sensitive string of letters and numbers. Users can operate multiple USDT addresses at any given time, with the possibility of using a unique USDT address for every transaction. Although the identity of a USDT address owner is generally anonymous (unless the owner opts to make the information publicly available), analysis of the blockchain can often be used to identify the owner of a particular USDT address. The analysis can also, in some instances, reveal additional addresses controlled by the same individual or entity. Unlike Bitcoin, one of the most popular cryptocurrencies in use today, USDT is "centralized", meaning that it is issued and controlled by a governing body. Most other cryptocurrencies are "decentralized" and have no such governing body.

## **FACTS SUPPORTING FORFEITURE**

### **THE SCHEME**

7. This case concerns a cryptocurrency investment fraud scam perpetrated on victims throughout the United States, including in the Eastern District of North Carolina. The scheme often begins when a fraudster sends a victim a seemingly innocuous and misdialed text message, or

through sending an unsolicited message to a victim's social media account. From there, the fraudster will attempt to establish a more personal relationship with the victim by using manipulative tactics similar to those used in online romance scams.

8. Once the fraudster has established a trusted relationship with the victim, the fraudster brings the victim into a cryptocurrency investment scheme. This fraudster typically claims to have a technique to quickly make large profits, either through personal expertise with cryptocurrency, or through a trusted relative or friend with insider information. The investment schemes have the appearance of a legitimate enterprise through the use of fabricated interfaces, derivative websites that appear related to legitimate companies, and other techniques designed to bolster the scheme's legitimacy. This generally includes a fake investment platform operated through a website or mobile application that displays a fictitious investment portfolio with abnormally large investment returns. The investment platforms are a ruse, and the funds contributed are routed directly to a cryptocurrency address the fraudsters control. In reality, the victims do not have actual "accounts" at the fake companies – as soon as the victim sends cryptocurrency to the deposit address provided by the fraudsters, it is immediately moved through many other wallets in order to launder the funds and make them harder to trace. The victims are able to see what they believe are their deposits on the fraudulent website, and the purported large returns on their investments are designed to convince them to invest more.

9. When the victims do attempt to withdraw their funds, they are unable to do so and are often met with various excuses, such as being told they are required to pay "taxes" or "penalties" in order to release their funds. The "tax" payments are an attempt by the scammers to elicit even more money out of the victims. The fraudsters, in the form of "customer service" for the fraudulent

website, will continue to ask for additional payments from the victim, and will not release the funds regardless of how much is paid.

10. In this case, multiple victims, one of whom (hereinafter “K.W.”) resides in the Eastern District of North Carolina, were victims of a cryptocurrency investment fraud scheme. This affidavit discusses two victims (“K.W.” and “J.B.”) of the same organization perpetrating the same investment fraud scheme. The victims were approached and recruited through the guise of a romantic relationship in order to develop a trusted relationship. Once the romantic relationship was established, the fraudster introduced K.W./J.B. to the fictitious trading platform, Bitkanant (the name of this trading platform is similar to a legitimate cryptocurrency trading platform, Bitkan). Based on an analysis of the fake investment platforms that all the victims were directed to, as well as tracing of the cryptocurrency that the victims sent, agents believe that the victims were all likely victimized by the same person or group. The following sections detail the background of one victim’s enticement into the scheme. This is followed by a section which demonstrates the link between the victims and shows that there are likely to be many more additional victims of the same group.

#### Victim K.W.

11. K.W. is 67 years old and a resident of Angier, North Carolina. In January 2023, a person claiming to be a woman named “Jeanie” contacted K.W. via text message and they began exchanging messages not related to investing or cryptocurrency. They later communicated via WhatsApp and Telegram. Jeanie (who later said her real name was Li Xueli) said she worked in fashion design in Miami, Florida. Jeanie also claimed to be from Hong Kong, with her mother being Chinese and her father being English. Jeanie provided multiple pictures of herself, some of which were later found associated with different names on various social media and websites, such

as LinkedIn. There are even screenshots of text communications with her picture attempting to engage other individuals.

12. Eventually the conversation turned to finances and investing. Jeanie claimed her uncle lived in Chicago, and he and his team developed an algorithm predicting the up-and-down price movement of Bitcoin and Ethereum on particular days at particular times. Jeanie then introduced K.W. to Bitkan, the legitimate international cryptocurrency exchange platform. But Jeanie provided K.W. the website link, Bitkanant.com/h5#/home, which was not the link to Bitkan, but instead the link to a fake cryptocurrency trading platform.

13. In or around the end of January 2023, after receiving assurances about the safety of the website for investments and the trust K.W. had developed for Jeanie due to their romantic relationship, K.W. agreed to create an account on Bitkanant.com/h5#/home and make some small investments. In total, K.W. invested approximately \$95,000. K.W. transferred money to his cryptocurrency wallets at Cypto.com or Coinbase and then transferred either Bitcoin or Ethereum to what K.W. believed were his wallets at Bitkan. K.W. made some trades on the website based on Jeanie's recommendation from "her uncle" and made significant profits in a short period of time. K.W. was then able to make small withdrawals from what K.W. believed was his Bitkan account. This gave K.W. further comfort in the platform and convinced K.W. to make additional investments. Between February and March 2023, Jeanie manipulated K.W. into investing his entire individual retirement account (IRA), totaling approximately \$1.8 million.

14. When K.W. attempted to withdraw any funds over \$50,000, he received a message that the withdrawal was disallowed unless taxes, fines, and fees were transferred to the website as USDT. K.W. transferred approximately \$669,000, which included a 20% tax, approximately \$516,000 due to a trigger in the system claiming money laundering, \$140,000 for a 5-year VIP



pass, \$100,000 for a blockchain large transfer channel, \$57,000 to return profit the site claimed was an irregular operation, and \$100,000 for an instant withdrawal fee. In total, the purported “taxes, fines, and fees” transferred by K.W. amounted to \$1.6 million.

15. In or around April 2023, Jeanie began having less communication with K.W. The last contact was in July 2023. Soon after communication with Jeanie ended, Bitkanant.com/h5#/home was taken down. In or around August 2023, K.W. located a new website on his own, Bitkancie.com, which was the same exact site as Bitkanant.com/h5#/home and K.W. was even able to log in using the same credentials and see his investments. K.W. subsequently reported the fraud to the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center on August 3, 2023, leading to the initiation of this investigation.

#### Tracing of Victim K.W.’s Funds to the **Subject USDT Addresses**

16. Seven of K.W.’s cryptocurrency transactions were traced to the **Subject USDT Addresses**, as detailed below. The traces were conducted using the Last-In-First-Out accounting principle – meaning the most recently deposited items are recorded as the next withdrawal. For clarity, all cryptocurrency addresses have been shortened to the first eight characters.

17. The following two transactions made by K.W. were traced to **USDT Address A**:

a. On February 4, 2023, K.W. sent 199,990 USDT from K.W.’s Crypto.com account to address 0x96C93A, which K.W. believed to be with Bitkan. From there, 199,990 USDT was sent to 0x7C9702. These funds were commingled with additional USDT, transferred through several more addresses, and ultimately sent to USDT Address A on March 11, 2023, as part of a 500,000 USDT transaction.

b. On February 6, 2024, K.W. sent 87,990 USDT from K.W.’s Crypto.com account to address 0x96C93A which K.W. believed to be with Bitkan. From there, 87,990 USDT sent to

0x7C9702. These funds were commingled with additional USDT, transferred through several more addresses, and ultimately sent to USDT Address A on March 11, 2023, as part of a 500,000 USDT transaction.

c. As of May 8, 2024, when the address was frozen by Tether at FBI request, approximately 499,535 USDT was present in USDT Address A, 287,980 of which can be traced as proceeds directly from K.W.

18. The following transaction made by K.W. was traced to **USDT Address B:**

a. On March 8, 2023, K.W. sent 199,990 USDT from K.W.'s Crypto.com account to address 0x96C93A, which K.W. believed to be with Bitkan. From there, 199,990 USDT was sent to 0x7C9702. These funds were commingled with additional USDT, transferred through several more addresses, and ultimately sent to USDT Address B in eleven installments from March 11, 2023 to March 21, 2023 totaling 243,099 USDT.

b. As of April 16, 2024, when the address was frozen by Tether at FBI request, approximately 684,279 USDT was present in USDT Address B, 151,708 of which can be traced as proceeds directly from K.W.

19. The following transaction made by K.W. was traced to **USDT Address C:**

a. On April 21, 2023, K.W. sent 199,990 USDT from his Crypto.com account to address 0x96C93A which K.W. believed to be with Bitkan. These funds were commingled with additional USDT, transferred through several more addresses, and ultimately sent to USDT Address C on May 11, 2023 as part of a 500,000 USDT transaction.

b. As of April 16, 2024, when the address was frozen by Tether at FBI request, approximately 500,000 USDT was present in USDT Address C, 199,990 of which can be traced as proceeds directly from K.W.

20. The following transaction made by K.W. was traced to **USDT Address D**:

a. On April 22, 2023, K.W. sent approximately 108,141 USDT from his Crypto.com account to address 0x96C93A which K.W. believed to be with Bitkan. These funds were commingled with additional USDT, transferred through several more addresses, and ultimately sent to USDT Address D on May 11, 2023 as part of a 500,000 USDT transaction.

b. As of April 16, 2024, when the address was frozen by Tether at FBI request, approximately 500,004 USDT was present in USDT Address D, 108,141 of which can be traced as proceeds directly from K.W.

21. The following two transaction made by K.W. were traced to **USDT Addresses E**:

a. On March 9, 2023, K.W. sent 180,790 USDT from his Crypto.com account to address 0x96C93A which K.W. believed to be with Bitkan. These funds were commingled with additional USDT, transferred through several more addresses, and ultimately sent to USDT Address E on March 11, 2023 as part of a 500,000 USDT transaction.

b. Also on March 9, 2023, K.W. sent approximately 126.61 ETH from his Coinbase account to address 0x96C93A which K.W. believed to be with Bitkan. The 126.61 ETH was transferred to address 0x7C9702 and converted to 193,745 USDT, using the decentralized exchange Tokenlon. The majority of these funds were transferred to several more addresses, commingled with additional USDT, and ultimately sent to USDT Address E on March 11, 2023 as part of a 500,000 USDT transaction.

c. As of May 8, 2024, when the address was frozen by Tether at FBI request, approximately 499,424 USDT was present in USDT Address E, 294,044 of which can be traced as proceeds directly from K.W.

22. In tracing K.W.'s cryptocurrency transactions, agents determined that two addresses (**USDT Address H** and **USDT Address I**) had funds remaining after the pass-through transfer of K.W.'s funds. Through the analysis described below, Addresses H and I were used for the purposes of commingling the proceeds of the fraud with other USDT<sup>2</sup> in furtherance of laundering the proceeds. Specifically:

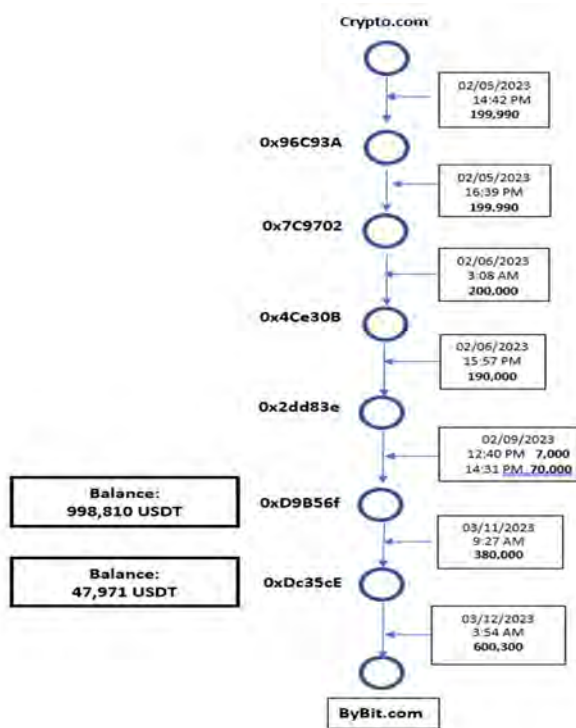
a. On February 5, 2023, K.W. sent approximately 199,990 USDT from his Crypto.com account to address 0x96C93A, which K.W. believed to be with Bitkan. These funds were commingled with additional USDT, transferred through several more addresses, including USDT Address H (0xD9B56f) and USDT Address I (0xDc35cE), and ultimately sent to an address at the exchange Bybit.com on March 12, 2023 as part of a 600,300 USDT transaction.

b. As of May 8, 2024, when the address was frozen by Tether at FBI request, approximately 998,810 USDT was present in USDT Address H, and 47,971 USDT was present in USDT Address I.

c. The following is a graphical representation of these transactions:

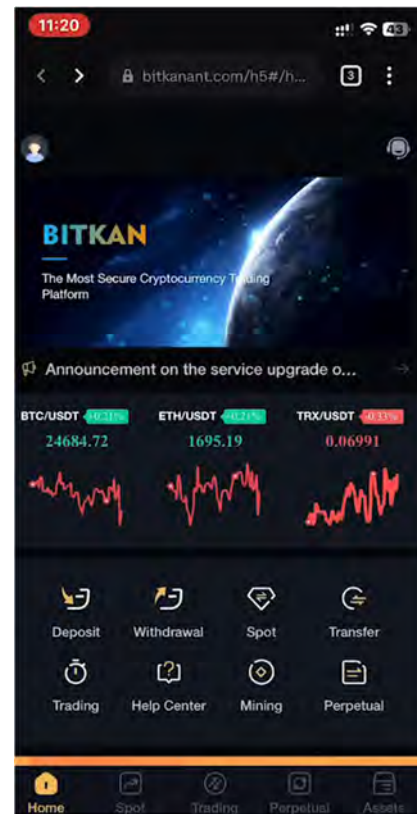
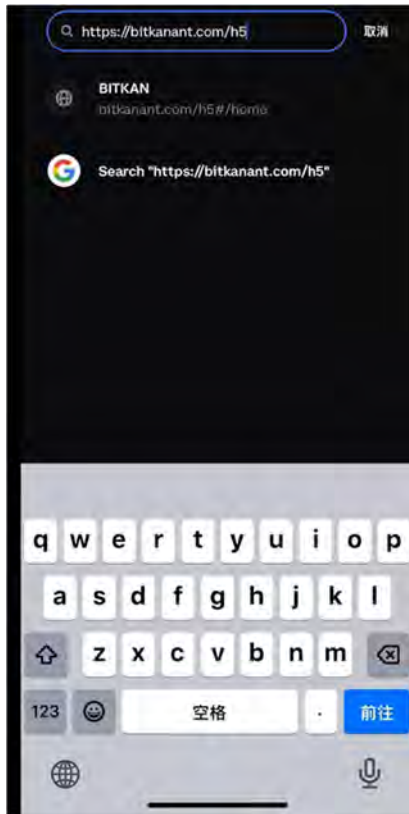
---

<sup>2</sup> Analysis of the addresses H & I indicates other deposits into the address were also fraudulent proceeds.



### Victim J.B.

23. J.B. is an 83-year-old resident of Bayfield, Minnesota. In February 2023 a person claiming to be a woman named Alice contacted J.B. via text message, said she received his phone number from another person, and that she wanted to verify it was really them. They later communicated via WhatsApp and Telegram. Alice (who later said her real name was Jengyi Lee) said she worked in fashion design in Miami, Florida. Alice also claimed to be from Hong Kong. J.B. and Alice eventually discussed cryptocurrency. J.B. said he had lost money on his investment in BTC and ETH, but he still held various cryptocurrencies in Coinbase. Alice introduced J.B. to what J.B. believed was a cryptocurrency trading platform called Bitkan. However, Alice deceived him into creating an account at a fraudulent site, Bitkanant, by providing the website address as “Bitkanant.com/h5#/home” rather than the true website address, Bitkan.com. Screenshots included below demonstrate how Alice deceived J.B. into accessing the fraudulent website rather than the legitimate Bitkan website.



24. In or around the middle of February 2023, J.B. transferred money to his wallets at Coinbase and then transfer either USDT or ETH to what J.B. believed were his wallets at Bitkan. J.B. made some trades on the website based on Alice's recommendation from her uncle and, according to Bitkan, made significant profit in a short period of time. Between February and April 2023, Alice manipulated J.B. into investing all of his savings, including a surrendered life insurance policy, totaling approximately \$950,000.

25. In or around May 30, 2023, after Adult Protective Services was contacted by J.B.'s bank, the Bayfield County Sheriff's Office filed a fraud report to the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) on J.B.'s behalf. J.B. and the Bayfield County Sheriff's Office attempted to withdraw money from J.B.'s Bitkan account but were unsuccessful.

Tracing of Victim J.B.'s Funds to the **Subject USDT Addresses**

26. Two of J.B.'s cryptocurrency transactions were traced to the **Subject USDT Addresses**, as detailed below. The traces were conducted using the Last-In-First-Out accounting principle – meaning the most recently deposited items are recorded as the next withdrawal. For clarity, all cryptocurrency addresses have been shortened to the first eight characters.

27. The following transaction made by J.B. was traced to **USDT Address F**:

a. On March 9, 2023, J.B. sent 13.59 BTC from J.B.'s Coinbase.com account to address 3HvFNTok which J.B. believed to be with Bitkan. From there, the funds were converted to 268,865 USDT via Tokenlon and deposited at address 0x7C9702. These funds were commingled with additional USDT, transferred through several more addresses, and ultimately sent to USDT Address F on May 11, 2023, as part of a 500,000 USDT transaction.

b. As of April 16, 2024, when the address was frozen by Tether at FBI request, approximately 500,004 USDT was present in USDT Address F, 268,865 of which can be traced as proceeds directly from J.B.

28. The following transaction made by J.B. was traced to **USDT Address G**:

c. On April 14, 2023, J.B. sent 9.02 BTC from J.B.'s Coinbase.com account to address 07x788EB which J.B. believed to be with Bitkan. From there, the funds were converted to 18,896.26 USDT via Tokenlon and deposited at address 0x7C9702. These funds were commingled with additional USDT, transferred through several more addresses, and ultimately sent to USDT Address G on May 11, 2023 as part of a 500,000 USDT transaction.

d. As of April 16, 2024, when the address was frozen by Tether at FBI request, approximately 500,004 USDT was present in USDT Address G, 18,896.26 of which can be traced as proceeds directly from J.B.

Tracing of Other Probable Victims' Funds to the **Subject USDT Addresses**

29. There are several factors which indicate that the two victims described above are part of the same larger fraud scheme. These factors show that the **Subject USDT Addresses** have been used not only to launder the proceeds of criminal activity received from K.W. and J.B., but from numerous other victims who are unknown at this time.

a. *Shared cryptocurrency addresses and patterns of activity:* In cryptocurrency investment fraud schemes, victims are often given individual “burner” cryptocurrency addresses which are provided only to that particular victim. When a victim sends cryptocurrency to the burner address, the cryptocurrency is then quickly sent to another address where funds from multiple victims are consolidated. There are often multiple layers of consolidation addresses, which can be seen in this case. Specifically:

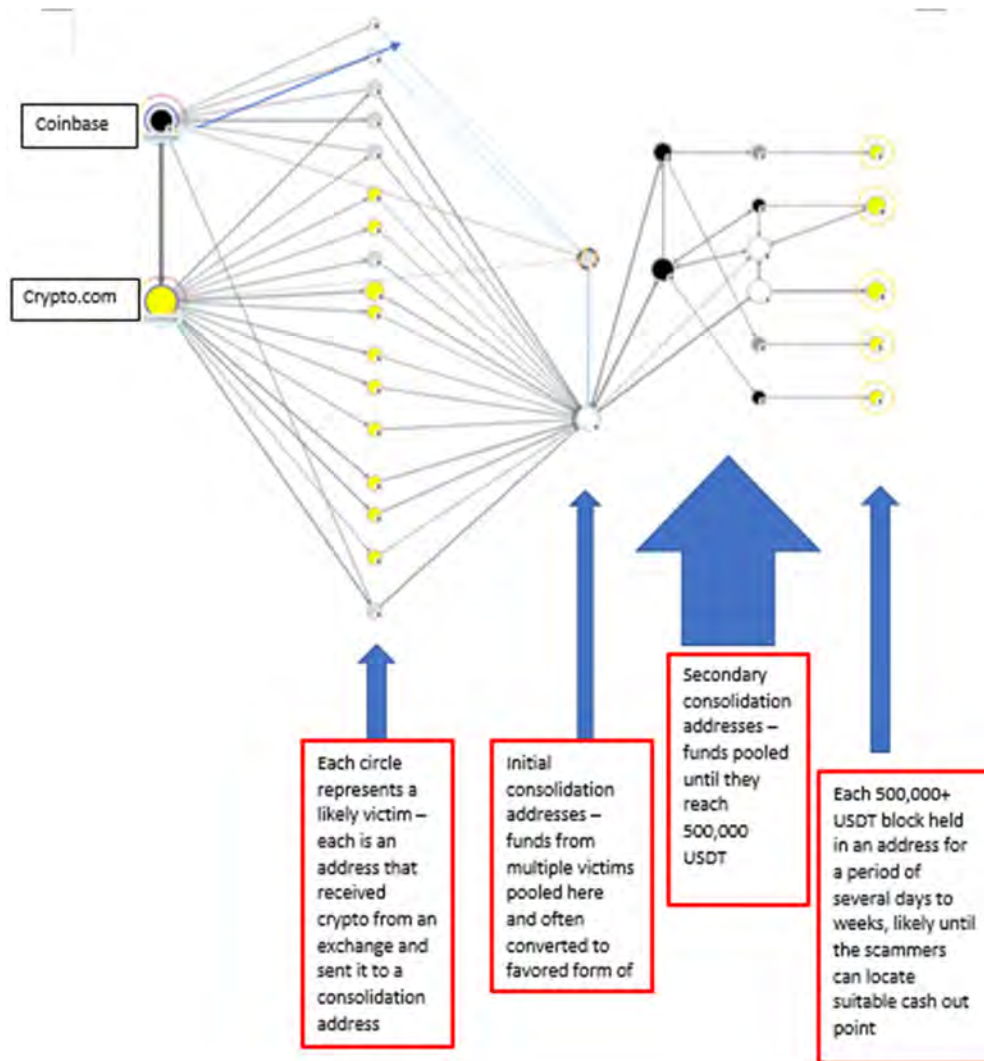
i. The tracing of victim transactions in this case showed that all of the transactions which led to Subject Addresses A, B, C, D, and E were sent through consolidation addresses, 0x96C93A and 0x7C9702. Transactions which led to USDT Address F and USDT Address G were sent through other addresses before passing through consolidation address 0x7C9702. USDT Address E and USDT Address F also shared consolidation address 0x02b725, and USDT Address C and USDT Address F shared consolidation address 0x1345ef.

ii. In sum, based on my training, experience, and the investigation to date, I believe that each victim transaction shows a common pattern of moving to an initial consolidation address, where it is converted to what appears to be the scammers' favored form of cryptocurrency, USDT. The USDT is then sent to a secondary consolidation address, where it is further comingled or transferred to several more addresses, then parceled out into addresses often containing approximately 500,000



USDT each. This was the common pattern for the transactions conducted on funds originating from K.W. and J.B.

b. The chart below was created by “backtracing” from the consolidation addresses that had been identified when tracing K.W. and J.B.’s transactions. In backtracing, instead of tracing forward to find out where the funds were sent, transactions were traced backward to see what other addresses had sent funds to the consolidation addresses, and where those funds originated from, which in every case was an exchange. In my experience this technique is very successful in locating additional victims who may not have reported the scam or may not yet be aware they are a victim.



c. *Other Victim Reporting:* A search of the FBI’s IC3 identified 71 other potential victims of this scam. These victims were located by searching for and “Bitturk” and “Bitkan” in the database. Each of these victims reported a similar scam to those detailed here, with some variations in how they were recruited for the scam, the name the scammer used when contacting the victim, and the specific URL used to access the platform.

30. During the freeze period and prior to the service of the seizure warrant, two potential claimants came forward and contacted Tether for wallet address 0xDc35cE037722e2196a8B3eB9da64648Bc0E037C8. The first claim was made on May 17, 2024

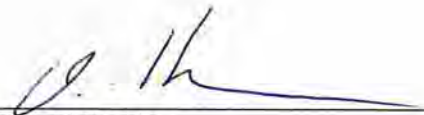
by an individual who provided the name Chen Fui Fong, however Fong elected not be interviewed by the FBI. The second claimant identified themselves as Zheng Lee and contacted Tether on June 13, 2024. Lee was interviewed by the FBI on June 25, 2024. During the interview, Lee stated he bought and sold USDT on behalf of others and did not always know with whom he was doing business. Lee also claimed he could purchase USDT for a lower price than the Tether platform as he was purchasing USDT using Malaysian money. Lee provided no legitimate explanation for the activity in this wallet. As unhosted Tether wallets are anonymous, it was not possible to obtain any ownership information on this wallet or any of the other eight wallets seized.

### **CONCLUSION**

31. Based on information derived from the foregoing investigation, there is probable cause to conclude that the **Subject USDT Addresses** received and contain the proceeds of a wire fraud scheme in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343 and 1349 (wire fraud and conspiracy to commit wire fraud). Those proceeds are subject to seizure and forfeiture pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C). In addition, there is probable cause to believe that the contents of the **Subject USDT Addresses** constitute property involved in money laundering transactions in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1956(a)(1)(B)(i) and 1956(h) (money laundering and conspiracy to commit money laundering), and are therefore subject to seizure and forfeiture pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 981(a)(1)(A).

32. The foregoing facts are furthermore sufficient to support a reasonable belief that the defendant property is forfeitable to the United States pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and/or 18 U.S.C. 981(a)(1)(A).

Executed this 8th day of November, 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Harding  
Special Agent  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

## CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM)

## I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff

(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Katherine A. King, Assistant U. S. Attorney, U. S. Attorney's Office,  
Eastern District of North Carolina, 150 Fayetteville St., Ste. 2100,  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601. Telephone: 919-856-4530

## DEFENDANTS

4,992,845.06 USDT VIRTUAL CURRENCY

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Wake

(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF  
THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

## II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant
- ☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

## III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- |   | PTF                        | DEF                        |   | PTF                        | DEF                        |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Citizen of This State                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State     | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State                | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation  | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

## IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice <b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability <b>PERSONAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 690 Other <b>LABOR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act <b>IMMIGRATION</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 <b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) <b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITIONS		
<input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	<b>Habeas Corpus:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <b>Other:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement		

## V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding
- ☐ 2 Removed from State Court
- ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court
- ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened
- ☐ 5 Transferred from Another District (specify)
- ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer
- ☐ 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

## VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):  
18 USC 981(a)(1)(C)Brief description of cause:  
Forfeiture

## VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.

## DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: ☐ Yes ☒ No

## VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE  
11/08/2024SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD  
/s/ Katherine A. King, Assistant U. S. Attorney

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IF

JUDGE

MAG JUDGE



IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA  
WESTERN DIVISION

NO. 5:24-CV-634

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	WARRANT OF ARREST AND
	)	NOTICE <i>IN REM</i>
	)	
4,992,845.06 USDT VIRTUAL	)	
CURRENCY,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

TO: THE UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE FOR THE EASTERN  
DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, a Complaint for Forfeiture *in rem* as above-styled was filed on the 8th day of November, 2024, by the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina, against the defendant and for the reasons stated in the Complaint for Forfeiture *in rem*.

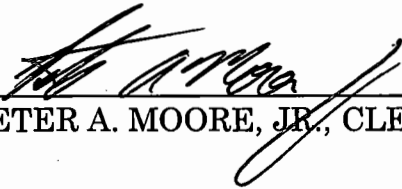
NOW, THEREFORE, for the aforementioned reasons and praying for process of the Warrant of Arrest of said property in that behalf to be issued and that all persons having right, title, or interest therein may be cited to appear and answer all matters therein propounded, that this Court will order and decree the condemnation and forfeiture of said property.

YOU ARE, THEREFORE, hereby commanded to arrest, attach, and retain the above-described property until the further order of this Court respecting the same; to give due notice to all persons claiming the same, knowing or having anything to say why the same should not be condemned and disposed of pursuant to the prayer of the Complaint, that they must file their claims to the property within the earlier of: (a) thirty-five (35) days after the date this Warrant of Arrest and Notice In Rem is sent, as defined by Supplemental Rule G(4)(b)(iv), (b) thirty (30) days after final publication of newspaper notice or legal notice of the filing of the Complaint under Rule G(4)(a), or (c) sixty (60) days after the first day of publication on an official government forfeiture website; and shall serve and file their answers within twenty-one (21) days after the filing of the claim, with the Office of the Clerk, United States District Court, Eastern District of North Carolina, 310 New Bern Avenue, P.O. Box 25670, Raleigh, North Carolina 27601, with a copy thereof sent to Assistant U. S. Attorney, Katherine A. King and Michael G. James, 150 Fayetteville Street, Suite 2100, Raleigh, North Carolina 27601. The claim must, at a minimum, identify the specific property claimed, identify the claimant and state the claimant's interest in the property, and be signed by the claimant under penalty of perjury, as provided by Supplemental Rule G(5).

The potential claimant is further notified that any claim filed with the seizing agency in an administrative proceeding and/or any petition filed in a related criminal action is NOT a substitute for the claim that must be filed in this action, which claim

must meet the requirements of and be within the time allowed under Rules G(4) and G(5), as described above.

This the 12 day of November, 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PETER A. MOORE, JR., CLERK

DATE NOTICE SENT: April 2, 2025





# PETITION FOR REMISSION/MITIGATION FORM

**Note:** There is no legal form or format required for filing a petition; this document is provided for your convenience. Please visit <https://www.forfeiture.gov/FilingPetition.htm> for more specific guidance on filing your petition with the appropriate seizing agency.

**Frivolous Petition Statement:** A petition containing false information may subject the petitioner to criminal prosecution under Title 18 United States Code Section 1001 and Title 18 United States Code Section 1621.

**Privacy Act Notice:** The Department of Justice is collecting this information for the purpose of processing your petition for remission and/or mitigation. Providing this information is voluntary; however, the information is necessary to process your application. Information collected is covered by Privacy Act System of Records Notice Department of Justice (DOJ), DOJ-002-DOJ Computer Systems Activity & Access Records, Federal Register (71 FR 29170). This information may be disclosed to contractors when necessary to accomplish an agency function, to law enforcement when there is a violation or potential violation of law, or in accordance with other published routine uses. For a complete list of routine uses, see the system of records notice listed above.

## **SECTION I – CONTACT INFORMATION**

<b>PETITIONER INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Petitioner/Contact Name:</b> (Last, First)	
<b>Business/Institution Name:</b> (if applicable)	<b>Prisoner ID:</b> (if applicable)
<b>Address:</b> (Include Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
<b>Social Security Number/Tax Identification Number:</b> (Enter N/A if you do not have one)	
<b>Please provide an explanation why you do not have a Social Security Number, if above is N/A:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b> (optional)	<b>Email:</b> (optional)
<b>ATTORNEY INFORMATION (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Attorney Name:</b> (Last, First)	
<b>Attorney Title:</b>	
<b>Firm Name:</b> (if applicable)	
<b>Attorney Address:</b> (Include Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
<b>Are you an attorney filing this petition on behalf of your client?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
<b>Attorney Phone:</b> (optional)	<b>Attorney Email:</b> (optional)

*If any of this information changes, you are responsible for notifying the agency of the new information.*

## SECTION II – ASSET LIST

You must identify your role for each asset in your petition. Please review the role definitions below.

ROLE INFORMATION (multiple roles may apply to each asset)	
<b>Owner</b>	<i>The person in whom primary title is vested or whose interest is manifested by the actual and beneficial use of the property, even though the title is vested in another. A victim of an offense, as defined in this section, may also be an owner if he or she has a present legally cognizable ownership interest in the property forfeited. A nominal owner of property will not be treated as its true owner if he or she is not its beneficial owner.</i>
<b>Victim</b>	<i>A person who has incurred a pecuniary loss as a direct result of the commission of the offense underlying a forfeiture. A drug user is not considered a victim of a drug trafficking offense under this definition. A victim does not include one who acquires a right to sue the perpetrator of the criminal offense for any loss by assignment, subrogation, inheritance, or otherwise from the actual victim, unless that person has acquired an actual ownership interest in the forfeited property; provided however, that if a victim has received compensation from insurance or any other source with respect to a pecuniary loss, remission may be granted to the third party who provided the compensation, up to the amount of the victim's pecuniary loss.</i>
<b>Lienholder</b>	<p><i>A creditor whose claim or debt is secured by a specific right to obtain satisfaction against the particular property subject to forfeiture. A lien creditor qualifies as a lienholder if the lien:</i></p> <p><i>(1) Was established by operation of law or contract;</i></p> <p><i>(2) Was created as a result of an exchange of money, goods, or services; and</i></p> <p><i>(3) Is perfected against the specific property forfeited for which remission or mitigation is sought (e.g., a real estate mortgage; a mechanic's lien).</i></p>

Identify the asset ID and asset description for each asset you are petitioning and indicate your role as a petitioner for each asset. You may select one or more roles.

#	Asset ID	Asset Description	Owner	Victim	Lienholder
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### **SECTION III – VICTIM PETITION**

*If you are filing this petition as a victim, please fill out the information below. The information must apply to all of the assets you selected as a victim role in the previous section. If you are not filing as a victim for any assets, you may skip this section.*

**I am requesting remission of this forfeiture because I am a victim of the criminal offense underlying the forfeiture of this property or am the victim of a related offense and I have suffered a pecuniary loss as a result of that offense as described below:**

**Please provide the total pecuniary loss claimed. This is the total amount you claim to have lost.**

**If you have recovered any of your losses, please list the details below. If you have more than two sources of recovery, please print multiple copies of this table to submit with the petition.**

<b>SOURCE(S) OF RECOVERY (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Source of Recovery 1:</b>	<b>Amount of Recovery:</b>
<b>Source of Recovery 2:</b>	<b>Amount of Recovery:</b>

**In the space below, please list any documents you are including in support of your victim petition. If none are included, please explain why.**

## **SECTION IV – INTEREST IN PROPERTY**

*Provide additional information for the assets where you have identified yourself as the owner and/or lienholder. If you are petitioning for multiple assets and the responses are not the same for each asset, please print out multiple copies of this page to submit with the petition and indicate which assets apply to each page. If you have documentation that supports your interest in the petitioned assets (bill of sale, retail installment agreements, contracts, titles or mortgages) please include copies of the documents with the submission of the petition.*

INTEREST IN PROPERTY INFORMATION	
Asset ID	Asset Description

**In the space below, please explain why you have a valid, good faith, and legally recognizable interest in the asset(s) as an owner or lienholder:**

**Select the reason why you are petitioning for remission and/or mitigation of the asset(s)?**

- ☐ I am an innocent owner and I did not know of the conduct giving rise to the forfeiture OR I am an innocent owner and upon learning of the conduct giving rise to the forfeiture, I did all that reasonably could be expected under the circumstance to terminate such use of the property.
- ☐ I was a bona fide purchaser or seller of the forfeited property for value, AND I did not know and was without cause to believe that the property was subject to forfeiture at the time I acquired my interest in the property.
- ☐ None of the above. I am only seeking mitigation.

**In the space below, please explain the reason for filing a petition.**

**In the event that the ruling official determines that I do not qualify for remission of the property, I hereby request mitigation of the forfeiture to avoid extreme hardship.**

☐ YES      ☐ NO

**In support of my request, I would like the ruling official to consider the following extenuating circumstances:**

**In the space below, please list any documents you are including in support of your interest in the asset(s). If none are included, please explain why.**

## **SECTION V – NET EQUITY WORKSHEET**

Complete the table below for each asset where you are a lienholder. If you are a lienholder for multiple assets, please print out multiple copies of this page to submit with the petition.

LOAN / ASSET INFORMATION		
<b>Asset ID:</b>	<b>Asset Description:</b>	<b>Seizure Date:</b>
<b>Purchaser:</b>	<b>Co-Signer (optional):</b>	
<b>Loan Date:</b>	<b>Date of Last payment:</b>	
<b>Amount Financed:</b> \$	<b>Date Lien Perfected with State:</b>	
<b>Original Term of Loan (months):</b>	<b>Day of the Month Each Payment is Due:</b>	
<b>Contract Rate of Interest:</b> %	<b>Total Amount Paid to Lienholder After Seizure:</b> \$	
<b>Unpaid Principal Due at Seizure:</b> \$	<b>Unpaid Interest Due at Seizure:</b> \$	
<b>Dealer's Reserve:</b> \$	<b>Taxes, Transfer Fees, etc.:</b> \$	
<b>Insurance Costs:</b> \$	<b>Duration (months):</b>	
<b>Service Contract Costs:</b> \$	<b>Duration (months):</b>	
<b>Extended Warranty Costs:</b> \$	<b>Duration (months):</b>	
<b>Miscellaneous Costs:</b> \$		
<b>Provide Details (for miscellaneous costs):</b>		
INFORMATION FURNISHED BY		
<b>Contact Name:</b> (Last, First)	<b>Business Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b> (Include Street, City, State, and Zip Code)		
<b>Phone:</b> (optional)	<b>Email:</b> (optional)	

\* Copies of your Net Equity assertions, such as bills of sale, retail installment agreements, contracts, certificates of title, payment history, security agreements, loan applications, or mortgages, which support the amount claimed as unpaid principal, must be attached to this report as an attachment.

**In the space below, please list any documents you are including in support of this Net Equity Worksheet. If none are included, please explain why.**

## **SECTION VI – RECOVERY OF LOSS**

Complete this section for the assets where you have identified yourself as the owner and/or lienholder and you have recovered all or a portion of your losses either via an insurance claim and/or via some other source of recovery. If you have more recovery of loss information than may fit on this page, print out multiple copies of this page to submit with the petition and indicate which assets apply to each page. If you have not received any recovery of your losses, then leave this section blank.

<b>RECOVERY OF LOSS INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Asset ID</b>	<b>Asset Description</b>

<b>INSURANCE CLAIM INFORMATION (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Name of Insured:</b> (Last, First)	
<b>Policy Number:</b>	<b>Claim Number:</b>
<b>Name of Insurance Company:</b>	<b>Name of Insurance Agent:</b> (Last, First)
<b>Insurance Company Address:</b> (Include Street, City, State, and Zip Code)	
<b>Phone:</b> (optional)	<b>Email:</b> (optional)
<b>Have you received compensation from the insurance company?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<b>Amount of Compensation:</b>

If other sources of recovery exist (e.g., restitution, returns on investment or other settlements), please list and describe the details below.

<b>OTHER SOURCE(S) OF RECOVERY (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Source of Recovery 1:</b>	<b>Amount of Recovery:</b>
<b>Source of Recovery 2:</b>	<b>Amount of Recovery:</b>

In the space below, please list any documents you are including in support of your recovery of loss. If none are included, please explain why.

## **SECTION VII – DECLARATION AND REPRESENTATION**

*The following declaration should be completed by the petitioner. If the petitioner is represented by an attorney, the attorney may complete the declaration as long as the petitioner completes the sworn notice of representation.*

I attest and declare under penalty of perjury that my petition is not frivolous and the information provided in support of my petition is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Printed Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

### **Sworn Notice of Representation**

*This section must be completed only by petitioners who are represented by an attorney and whose attorney has executed the declaration provided above.*

I have retained the above-named attorney who has authority to represent me in this matter. I have fully reviewed the foregoing petition and found that its contents are truthful and accurate in every respect. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing information is true and correct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Printed Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

A petition containing false information may subject the petitioner to criminal prosecution under Title 18 United States Code Section 1001 and Title 18 United States Code Section 1621.