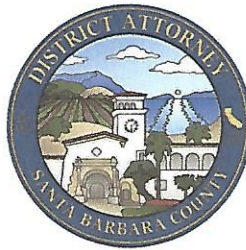


OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

**JOYCE E. DUDLEY**  
District Attorney



DA 11-445

RELEASE NUMBER

November 29, 2017

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Christopher Dalbey, Deputy District Attorney

CONTACT (805) 568-2436

\*\*\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\*\*\*

**Re: *Western Union Claims/Refund Process***

District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that in January 2017, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) settled a criminal case against Western Union Company. Western Union forfeited \$586 million and admitted to criminal violations, including willfully failing to maintain an effective anti-money laundering program and aiding and abetting wire fraud.

Earlier this month, the FTC issued a press release to alert consumers who lost money to scammers who told them to pay via Western Union's money-transfer system between January 1, 2004, and January 19, 2017, so that they can file a claim to get their money back. The deadline to file a claim is February 12, 2018. The complete FTC press release is found here: [www.ftc.gov/news-events/press-releases/2017/11/ftc-alerts-consumers-if-scammers-had-you-pay-them-western-union](http://www.ftc.gov/news-events/press-releases/2017/11/ftc-alerts-consumers-if-scammers-had-you-pay-them-western-union).

To file a claim, consumers can go to [www.ftc.gov/WU](http://www.ftc.gov/WU). If consumers have any questions about filing a claim, they can also call the FTC administrator at (844) 319-2124. Additional information is available on the FTC's blog page, at [www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2017/11/getting-your-money-back-western-union](http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2017/11/getting-your-money-back-western-union).

The Santa Barbara County District Attorney's office did not participate in the prosecution of this case against Western Union and is not part of the claims/refund process. This press release is intended to inform residents of Santa Barbara County who may have been victimized that refunds may be available to them and how to file a claim. For any questions, please contact the FTC directly at the website or phone number above.

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