



Siam Legal International Outlines Multi-Layered Student Exchange Scam Tactics in Thailand

September 18, 2026

Bangkok, Thailand - September 18, 2026 -

Siam Legal International, a full-service law firm with more than 22 years of experience assisting foreign and local nationals in Thailand, is outlining the mechanics of a multi-layered extortion scheme that recently cost a Thai family nearly 700,000 baht, after a university student was isolated and coerced into directing his parents to transfer funds under the guise of a scholarship deposit.

In the case, a business administration student at a Bangkok university received a call from someone posing as a customer service representative for a major Thai telecommunications provider, claiming his phone number was linked to illegal activity. The caller transferred him to an accomplice posing as a police officer in Loei province, who accused the student of participating in a money laundering network and threatened immediate arrest. Under that pressure, the student moved communications to Telegram and checked into a Bangkok hotel room under continuous digital monitoring, cutting off contact with friends and family.

The scammers then instructed the student to tell his parents a fabricated story about winning an international scholarship that required an urgent bank transfer as a guarantee deposit. Believing they were securing their son's academic future, the parents transferred close to 700,000 baht across multiple transactions before

university staff and local authorities intervened and located the student.

Siam Legal International said this pattern reflects a broader trend in which fraudsters combine a corporate impersonation, a fabricated legal threat, and a positively framed financial request to overwhelm a victim's ability to evaluate the situation critically. University students are frequently targeted in these schemes because they manage their own finances and bank accounts but often lack experience navigating complex legal or administrative threats without support. The firm noted that legitimate Thai law enforcement does not conduct investigations or demand payment through encrypted messaging platforms, does not have authority to order a person into a hotel room or bar, contact with family or legal counsel, and that no legitimate scholarship or exchange program requires an urgent personal bank transfer to guarantee admission or funding.

Kittisak Sriparesi, Attorney at Law at Siam Legal International, said, "Cases like this one are difficult to recognize from the outside because each part of the story sounds plausible on its own, and victims rarely have time to step back and question the sequence as a whole." Sriparesi said families who suspect a similar scheme should stop all financial transfers immediately, avoid confronting the scammer directly since doing so often prompts fraudsters to erase records and move funds, and focus first on reconnecting the isolated person with trusted contacts. He added that preserving screenshots, transaction records, and messaging logs without alteration significantly improves the chances of recovering funds and supporting a formal police investigation.

For Thai bank account holders, including foreign residents, the firm recommends contacting the Anti-Online Scam Operation Center hotline at 1441, which coordinates with financial institutions to freeze receiving accounts, alongside notifying the affected bank directly and filing a formal police report with supporting documentation. Siam Legal's cybercrime lawyers assist victims of online fraud, extortion, and related offenses with evidence preservation, police reporting, and coordination with financial institutions and Thai authorities such as the Cyber Crime Investigation Bureau.

Siam Legal International is a full-service law firm in Thailand representing both local and foreign nationals across immigration, property, corporate, and litigation matters in Thailand, with offices in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket, and Pattaya. The firm advises individuals and businesses on residency planning, property transactions, corporate structuring, and dispute resolution.

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Siam Legal International

American-managed Thailand law firm with 22+ years? experience. Experts in corporate setup, BOI, FBL, family & divorce, property, litigation, immigration, notary, wills, contracts & due diligence across Bangkok, Phuket, Pattaya & more.

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