Siam Legal International Warns Tourists of Tuk-Tuk Scam

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Bangkok, Thailand - November 20, 2026 -
Siam Legal International, a full-service law firm with more than 22 years of experience assisting Thai and foreign clients, has released new guidance after tourists who sought the firm's assistance described how a cheap sightseeing trip in Bangkok ended at a tailor shop with a clothing bill of more than THB 100,000. According to their account, paying that bill did not end the demands, and the shop went on to seek tens of thousands of baht more.

The tourists said a tuk-tuk driver offered them a sightseeing tour at a very low price. At a temple, a man in official-looking clothing recommended a tailor where he claimed to have bought clothes himself. He appeared to have no connection to the driver, who then took them to the shop.

The tuk-tuk scam is a very common scam targeting tourists in Thailand. The apparent independence of the stranger is a key part of how it works, because it makes the recommendation feel like advice from a fellow customer. Drivers may receive commissions for bringing visitors to a shop, and a seemingly unrelated stranger can help make the visit sound worthwhile. Another version begins with someone claiming that an attraction is closed and then suggesting an alternative stop.

Inside the shop, the tourists said staff separated them, rushed their decisions, and showed them expensive invoices from other customers. With little opportunity to discuss the purchase together, they paid more than THB 100,000. A further demand followed for tens of thousands of baht to cover lining and tailoring, and when they questioned those charges, staff separated and distracted them again.

The tourists demanded a refund, but their only payment document was a small receipt. They suspect that the driver, the man at the temple, and the shop were working together, although Siam Legal has not established that connection. Their account nonetheless resembles patterns described in official tourist warnings.

Once money has changed hands, the central question becomes what can be shown about the sale. A high price alone does not establish fraud, which generally requires dishonest deception that causes someone to hand over money or property. False claims about fabric or deliberately concealed charges may be relevant, depending on the evidence.

"A receipt shows what a customer paid, but it rarely shows what the shop promised to deliver," said Rex Baay, Senior Immigration Consultant and Operations Manager at Siam Legal International. "In a dispute over overpricing, an itemized quotation, the messages exchanged with staff, and a written account made while events are still fresh often matter as much as the payment record, because they help separate a poor bargain from a deception."

For that reason, the guidance recommends requesting an itemized quote covering the full price, including any extras, before agreeing to a purchase. Visitors who have already paid and suspect something is wrong are advised to keep every record they hold.

Personal safety comes first. The guidance advises against agreeing to further charges under pressure, and anyone who is threatened or prevented from leaving should seek police assistance rather than escalate the confrontation. The Tourist Police hotline 1155 operates 24 hours a day and can help with communication and reporting.

Once safe, visitors are advised to write down what happened while the details are still clear, even if a receipt is incomplete. Those who paid by card should contact their issuer promptly about dispute options, deadlines, and required evidence. Issuers may ask whether an attempt was made to resolve the matter with the shop, so refund requests and any responses should be kept. A payment the cardholder approved is not automatically an unauthorized transaction, and recovery is not guaranteed.

When reporting to police, visitors can request interpretation if needed and should keep a copy of the report or its reference number. The guidance also cautions against signing any statement that is not fully understood.

Siam Legal's tuk-tuk scam guide covers each warning sign in sequence, along with the steps to take after a disputed purchase.

A friendly recommendation that turns into pressure to spend is a signal to step back, and no sightseeing stop should force a visitor into a decision.

Siam Legal International is a full-service law firm with more than 22 years of experience assisting Thai and foreign clients, with offices in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket, and Pattaya. The firm provides comprehensive legal and immigration support across property transactions, business law, family law, and litigation.
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Siam Legal International

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