



## **Siam Legal Addresses Legal Remedies Amid Rise in Online Scam & Romance Fraud**

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Siam Legal International, a Bangkok law firm with more than 20 years of experience representing foreign nationals and residents in Thailand, has issued updated legal guidance outlining the remedies available to victims of online scams and romance fraud. The advisory follows a sustained rise in cross-border digital fraud cases, many of which involve perpetrators operating outside Thailand while targeting individuals who reside in or transfer funds through the Kingdom.

Online scams and romance fraud schemes commonly originate through social media platforms, dating applications, professional networking sites, and private messaging services. Perpetrators frequently cultivate emotional trust over an extended period, presenting fabricated personal or professional identities. Once rapport is established, victims are persuaded to transfer funds for staged emergencies, investment schemes, customs clearance fees, medical expenses, business opportunities, or travel-related costs. In many instances, communication ceases immediately after the transfer, and the identity presented is later revealed to be false.

According to the Bangkok law firm, a common misconception among victims is that because the transfer was

made voluntarily, no criminal offense has occurred. Under the Thai Criminal Code, however, fraud may be established where deception is used to induce a financial transfer. The absence of physical coercion does not negate criminal liability. If a payment was made as a result of intentional misrepresentation, false identity, or fabricated circumstances designed to obtain financial benefit, the legal elements of fraud may be satisfied.

Once a formal complaint is filed with Thai authorities, law enforcement agencies may initiate a criminal investigation. Investigators have the authority to request banking records, examine transaction trails, identify receiving accounts, and coordinate with financial institutions to trace the movement of funds. Where reporting occurs promptly, banks may be able to monitor or temporarily restrict suspicious accounts before funds are withdrawn or transferred onward. Timing is often decisive in determining whether meaningful recovery options remain available.

“Many victims believe that because they willingly transferred money, they have no legal recourse. That is not necessarily accurate under Thai law,” said Klittisak Sripareesri, Senior Associate at Siam Legal International. “Where there is deliberate financial deception, the offense may fall squarely within fraud provisions of the Thai Criminal Code. Acting quickly is critical. Early reporting significantly improves the possibility that transaction records can be traced and, in certain cases, funds temporarily frozen before they are dissipated.”

Siam Legal International advises victims to immediately preserve all relevant evidence. This includes chat histories, email correspondence, screenshots of online profiles, bank transfer confirmations, account numbers, payment references, and any identification documents or images provided during the exchange. An organized evidentiary record can materially assist investigators in establishing intent, tracing accounts, and determining jurisdictional scope.

In addition to criminal proceedings, certain circumstances may permit parallel civil action to pursue financial recovery. Civil claims may be considered where identifiable assets remain within Thailand or within jurisdictions that permit enforcement cooperation. However, recovery prospects are influenced by multiple factors, including how quickly the matter is reported, whether funds have been converted into cryptocurrency, and whether they have moved through layered international banking systems.

The Bangkok law firm further observes that many digital fraud operations function as coordinated cross-border networks. As a result, investigations may require cooperation between Thai authorities and foreign enforcement agencies. Differences in legal systems, financial regulations, and data-sharing protocols can affect investigative timelines and asset recovery outcomes.

Siam Legal International encourages individuals who suspect they have been targeted by online scams or romance fraud to seek legal guidance without delay. A structured legal assessment can clarify available remedies, outline procedural options, and provide a realistic evaluation of recovery prospects under Thai law.

Siam Legal International provides comprehensive legal services across Thailand, including criminal complaint assistance, civil litigation support, asset tracing coordination, corporate advisory, and immigration representation for foreign nationals and residents navigating complex legal matters in the Kingdom.

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