



## **Siam Legal International Addresses Rising Cyber Crime Concerns as Online Romance Scams Surge in Thailand**

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Siam Legal International, a Bangkok-based law firm specializing in legal, immigration, and regulatory matters, has issued guidance addressing the significant increase in online romance scams targeting foreign nationals in Thailand. The firm reports a rise in consultations from victims seeking legal solutions after falling prey to financial fraud schemes conducted through dating applications and social media platforms.

The increase in these cases has prompted legal experts to clarify how Thai law treats these offenses and what recourse victims can have under the criminal and civil justice systems. Romance scams typically involve perpetrators building trust with victims before requesting money for fabricated emergencies or opportunities. This is constituted as fraud under the Thai Criminal Code when deception leads to financial loss.

"Online romance scams represent structured financial crimes that go far beyond emotional manipulation," said Kittisak Sripareesri, Attorney at Law at Siam Legal International. "These cases fall under fraud provisions in the Thai Criminal Code, and when conducted online, can also violate the Computer Crime Act. The willingness of financial transfer on the victim's part does not absolve perpetrators of criminal liability when deception is involved."

Cyber Crime Lawyers in Thailand emphasize that immediate action significantly impacts the likelihood of fund recovery. Victims should contact their bank within 72 hours to request an emergency freeze on receiving accounts, file a formal police complaint, and preserve all evidence, including chat logs, transfer records, and communication histories.

The typical progression of these scams follows a predictable pattern. Perpetrators invest time building emotional connections with victims before introducing financial requests disguised as medical emergencies, investment opportunities, customs fees, or travel expenses. Victims often transfer substantial sums, believing they are helping someone with whom they have developed a genuine relationship.

Under Thai law, these schemes constitute criminal fraud when perpetrators use false pretenses to obtain money or property. The Computer Crime Act provides additional charges when identity fraud or online deception occurs. However, emotional manipulation alone, without financial fraud, does not constitute a criminal offense.

Recovery prospects depend heavily on timing and circumstances. When funds remain in Thai bank accounts, authorities may freeze assets pending investigation. Once money leaves the banking system or transfers abroad, recovery becomes substantially more challenging. Victims maintain both criminal and civil legal options, though civil recovery requires identifying and locating perpetrators.

Reporting channels available to victims include the Tourist Police hotline at 1155, the Online Scam Operation Center at 1441, local police stations, and the Technology Crime Suppression Division. Documentation requirements include passport copies, bank transfer records, screenshots of all communications, and a detailed timeline of events.

"The sophistication of these operations continues to evolve, making professional legal guidance essential for navigating both criminal proceedings and civil recovery efforts," added Kittisak. "Understanding the legal framework and acting swiftly can make the difference between successful asset recovery and permanent loss."

Siam Legal International is a full-service law firm that has been in operation for over 20 years. They have maintained extensive experience assisting both foreign and Thai clients in fraud-related matters, as well as coordinating with law enforcement agencies and financial institutions throughout Thailand. The firm provides comprehensive legal services, including criminal litigation, civil recovery proceedings, and regulatory compliance across multiple practice areas.

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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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