



## Attorney General's Office of Victim Services

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### Fraud & Financial Crimes

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Fraud is an umbrella term for many types of financial crimes. Fraud victims are of all ages, genders, races, and classes. Victims of financial crimes often feel the same pain and emotions that victims of violent crimes do; however, this is not accepted as easily because there is no physical injury. Some of the emotions faced by victims of fraud are:

- Denial
- Blaming others
- Rationalization
- Self-blame, shame, guilt
- Anger, retaliation
- Stress
- Depression
- Isolation
- Acceptance

#### Types of Financial Crimes

- *Identity Theft*: the fraudulent use of a person's information or identity. There are different types of identity theft, including financial, governmental, medical, and criminal.
- *Embezzlement*: theft or misappropriation of money belonging to a trust or a business.
- *Mortgage Fraud*: intentionally misrepresenting or omitting information on a mortgage loan application in order to obtain a loan, or to obtain a larger loan than would be possible if the lender knew the truth.
- *Financial Fraud/Scams*: emails/phone calls/other communication presenting fraudulent information in order to gain money from an unsuspecting victim (ex. Emails from abroad, lottery winner calls, fake investment opportunities, etc.).
- *Securities Fraud*: (aka stock fraud or investment fraud) getting a victim to invest money on the basis of false information, resulting in loss of money.

#### Restitution

Should your victimization result in a criminal case through the Arizona Attorney General's Office, and there is a conviction on your case, you may be awarded Restitution. Restitution is when the defendant makes payments, through the Clerk of Court, to you in order to repay your losses. Keep in mind that this is not ordered in every case. The Arizona Attorney General's Office of Victim Services monitors many restitution cases. For more information about restitution, visit <https://www.azag.gov/victim-services/victim-compensation-restitution> or <http://www.azcourts.gov/restitution>.

#### What We Can Do

If you or a loved one is a victim of a financial crime, it may be investigated and/or prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office. If this is the case, a victim advocate from the Attorney General's Office of Victim Services (OVS) will be assigned to your case. The advocate will assist you in several ways to cope with the emotional ramifications of victimization, the complexities of criminal investigations, as well as the criminal justice system.

The OVS advocate assigned to your case will keep you updated, by phone or in writing, of the status of your case. You will be informed of scheduled court proceedings, the outcome of those hearings, and your rights in the judicial process.

Some victims find it helpful to be actively involved as their cases are being investigated or prosecuted. Case updates and notifications from the Office of Victim Service, as well as the advocates themselves, can enable you to participate to the extent you require.

Keep in mind that, while OVS advocates are here to help, much of the recovery needed after a financial crime must be done by the victims themselves.

**Resources to Help You**Identity Theft Repair Kit

[https://www.azag.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/ID\\_Theft\\_Repair\\_Kit.pdf](https://www.azag.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/ID_Theft_Repair_Kit.pdf)

Federal Trade Commission (ID Theft, Scam Alerts, Credit Reports, etc.)

<https://www.ftc.gov/>

Identify Theft Resource Center

[www.idtheftcenter.org](http://www.idtheftcenter.org)

888-400-5530

Federal Trade Commission—ID Theft

<https://identitytheft.gov/>

Internal Revenue Service

<https://www.irs.gov/individuals/identity-protection>

Toll-Free Anti-Fraud Hotline

1-855-303-9470

Financial Fraud Checklists

<http://victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/financial-crime-resource-center/taking-action/checklists>