

## U. S. law enforcement completes third annual money mule operation

Written by Staff Reports

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### Action taken against over 2,300 money mules in global crackdown

The U.S. Department of Justice, the FBI, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and six other federal law enforcement agencies announced the completion of the third annual Money Mule Initiative, a coordinated operation to disrupt the networks through which transnational fraudsters move the proceeds of their crimes.

Money mules are individuals who assist fraudsters by receiving money from victims of fraud and forwarding it to the fraud organizers, many of whom are located abroad. Some money mules know they are assisting fraudsters, but others are unaware that their actions enable fraudsters' efforts to swindle money from consumers, businesses, and government unemployment funds.

Over the last two months, U.S. law enforcement agencies took action against over 2,300 money mules, far surpassing [last year's effort](#), which acted against over 600 money mules. This year, actions occurred in every state in the country. The initiative announced Dec. 2 targeted money mules involved in lottery fraud, romance scams, government imposter fraud, technical support fraud, business email compromise or CEO fraud, and unemployment insurance fraud. Many of these schemes target elderly or vulnerable members of society.

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***Reporting is the first step. The hotline is staffed seven days a week from 8 am - 9 pm MST. English, Spanish and other languages are available.***