



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Western Union Settles with Victims of Wire Scams

Date: April 27, 2017

On 01-19-17, the Western Union Company (Western Union), a global money services business headquartered in Englewood, Colorado, agreed to forfeit \$586 million and entered into agreements with the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission.

In its agreement with the Justice Department, Western Union admitted that it violated U.S. laws, The Bank Secrecy Act, and anti-fraud statutes by processing hundreds of thousands of transactions for Western Union agents and others involved in an international consumer fraud scheme.

As part of the scheme, fraudsters contacted victims in the U.S. and falsely posed as family members in need, or promised prizes or job opportunities. The fraudsters directed the victims to send money through Western Union to help their relative or to claim their prize,

If you believe you were a victim of this type of fraud and you made a wire transfer through Western Union between **January 1, 2004** and **January 19, 2017**, you may be eligible for remission.

In order to be considered for remission payment, victims must submit a Remission Form along with any available supporting documentation. The process for filing a petition has not started yet.

Victims may contact the Remission Administrator at 1-844-319-2124 or info@WesternUnionRemission.com to receive updates or additional information.

Further information can be obtained by following the link below:
<https://www.ftc.gov/enforcement/cases-proceedings/refunds/western-union-settlement-faqs>

The Office of Sheriff:

The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, and remains accountable to them.