



# UNITED STATES POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

## PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Open Portal for MoneyGram Fraud Victims June 1, 2021

Washington, DC – The U.S. Postal Inspection Service announced today that it has opened the remission compensation process to provide recovery for MoneyGram fraud victims from the \$125 million administrative forfeiture. On June 1, 2021, victims of fraud who sent a money transfer from the United States through MoneyGram between January 1, 2013, and December 31, 2017, will have the opportunity to file a petition for remission (reimbursement).

As part of the agreements with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) an Amendment to and Extension of the November 2012 Deferred Prosecution Agreement (DPA) was filed in November 2018 in the Middle District of Pennsylvania to include the \$125 million forfeiture. While under the November 2012 DPA, MoneyGram implemented a new fraud interdiction system that ultimately proved ineffective. MoneyGram did not block a substantial number of transactions associated with consumers they previously identified as receiving fraud transactions. MoneyGram did not disclose these weaknesses to DOJ and instead told the DOJ the rise in consumer fraud transactions was substantially related to external circumstances. As a result of these failures, MoneyGram admitted that it processed at least \$125 million in additional consumer fraud transactions.

"In our continuing effort to protect consumers from fraud schemes, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service is pleased and honored to return monies to victims," said Inspector in Charge Damon E. Wood of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service's Philadelphia Division. "The MoneyGram Remission process affords us the opportunity to provide victims especially the most vulnerable with financial justice. We would like to thank our law enforcement and regulatory investigative partners, particularly the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, the Department of Justice Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Section and the Federal Trade Commission for their contributions to this collaborative effort."

"Obtaining recovery for victims is a high priority for the Department of Justice and we are extremely pleased that so many victims will be able to obtain remission for their losses in these cases," stated Acting U.S. Attorney Bruce D. Brandler. "For the past twenty years our office in partnership with the Postal Inspection Service and the Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Section has prosecuted numerous corrupt MoneyGram agents as well as overseen the Deferred Prosecution Agreement with MoneyGram itself in order to deter this type of activity and obtain justice for the victims. I want to thank all the law enforcement agents and prosecutors who worked tirelessly for decades to bring millions of dollars of recoveries to victims."

"MoneyGram profited by making it easy for con-artists to get away with people's hard-earned money. Today, people can begin to recover, and we urge anyone who lost money to a scammer via MoneyGram to file a claim and get their check," said Daniel Kaufman, Acting Director of the Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Consumer Protection. "We're also committed to ensuring that MoneyGram lives up to its promises in the future to crack down on fraud in its system."

Individuals who believe they may be victims may file a petition online or may obtain a petition form online at the remission website: [www.moneygramremission.com](http://www.moneygramremission.com) through August 31, 2021. More information regarding the remission process, including eligibility criteria, updates, and frequently asked questions is available at the remission website or by calling 1- 844-269-2630. Gilardi & Co., LLC is serving as the remission administrator in this matter. Gilardi & Co., LLC and the US Postal Inspection Service will not ask for any payment in order to participate in this remission process. For more information on how to protect yourself from fraud, please visit [www.postalinspectors.uspis.gov](http://www.postalinspectors.uspis.gov) or [www.consumer.ftc.gov](http://www.consumer.ftc.gov).



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The U.S. Attorney's Office Middle District of Pennsylvania and the DOJ Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Section conducted the criminal prosecution. The FTC conducted the civil fraud investigation. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service conducted the criminal fraud investigation.

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