



Bureau of Consumer Protection  
Division of Marketing Practices

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20580

Lois C. Greisman  
Associate Director  
(202) 326-3404  
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January 23, 2025

**Via Email**

Dominet Limited

Email: DomainAbuse@service.aliyun.com

Re: Impersonation of the Federal Trade Commission and Unauthorized Use of its Logo by  
Domains Registered by Dominet Limited

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to inform you that one or more domains registered by Dominet Limited appear to be perpetrating a deceptive impersonation scheme that utilizes the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) name, logo, and website content without authorization.

As shown in the attached screenshots, the website [FTC.ReportFraud.site](http://FTC.ReportFraud.site) closely mirrors the layout, wording, and design of the FTC's own website, [reportfraud.ftc.gov](http://reportfraud.ftc.gov). [FTC.ReportFraud.site](http://FTC.ReportFraud.site) prominently displays the name "Federal Trade Commission" in its upper lefthand side and displays a replica of the FTC's logo in the upper left and bottom right corners of its webpages.

The website carries the images of a supposed law firm, which appears to be fake, that purportedly works with the FTC to recover losses for victims of online fraud. Moreover, the website requests an "acceptance number" or "email address," which the actual FTC's website does not do, and which would deceive consumers into inputting their data while impersonating the FTC.

The FTC is not affiliated with the entities or individuals operating this website. Please be advised that it is a violation of the Rule on Impersonation of Government and Businesses ("Impersonator Rule"), 16 C.F.R. § 461, to "materially and falsely pose as, directly or by implication, a government entity or officer."

We expect to hear from Dominet Limited regarding this urgent consumer protection matter promptly. Please direct any questions, and a copy of your response, to Virginia Rosa, [vrosa@ftc.gov](mailto:vrosa@ftc.gov), 202-326-3068.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lois C. Greisman  
Lois C. Greisman



Report Disaster Fraud and Price Gouging Here



Report to help fight fraud!

Report Now

Protect your community by reporting fraud, scams, and bad business practices.

The FTC is investigating and seizing \$200 million in illegal funds. Please don't be fooled again.

Learn More

View progress

The FTC will never demand money, make threats, tell you to transfer money, or promise you a prize. If you have been targeted by an illegal business practice or scam, report it.

Report to the FTC



SMITH ALLEN LLP Attorneys at Law

With over 30 years of combined experience, Smith Allen LLP proudly offers customized services to meet the needs of clients in Canada, the United States and Israel in tax and estate planning, U.S. real estate, Quebec real estate, Internet fraud and U.S. immigration matters.

Our team of experienced attorneys and notaries, with offices in Montreal, Toronto, Florida and California, is uniquely positioned to recommend and implement strategies that meet the legal and tax requirements of clients in all three countries.

The Smith Allen LLP team is led by Alan Garrett Smith, whose highly developed expertise, extensive knowledge, meticulous attention to detail and commitment to client service enable us to provide the best possible outcomes for our clients and their families in the United States and Israel. Smith Allen LLP has worked with the FTC over the years to recover losses for thousands of victims of online fraud. Let us work together to maintain the safety of the Internet and protect the safety of people's property is our mission.

Get started now. Or you can browse our FAQs.



Scammers are impersonating the FTC. Know that the FTC will never threaten you, say you must transfer your money to "protect it," or tell you to withdraw cash or buy gold and give it to someone.

Learn more at ftc.gov/impersonators



Fraudsters are now using individuals seeking remote work to scam millions of dollars in cryptocurrency.

We are helping victims recover funds from a new cryptocurrency scam disguised as remote work.



Brooklyn Woman Falls Victim to Tech Support Scam, Loses \$100,000

A meticulously orchestrated scam left a retired accountant from Brooklyn \$100,000 poorer.



Scammers stole more than USD 1.2 billion from Asian consumers in 2022.

We speak to victims of fraud and share tips on how to avoid being duped.



Georgina's Fight Against a Costly Romance Scam

Georgina's children signed her up for Facebook and gave her some basic lessons on how to use it.



Start your report now, or check out what is going on in your state or metro area by visiting ftc.gov/exploredata.

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**URL**

<https://ftc.reportfraud.site/pathIndex.html>

**Timestamp**

Wed Jan 22 2025 13:21:06 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)





## Our Attorneys



# JONES KELLEHER LLP

Attorneys at Law

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## New York—

A meticulously orchestrated scam left a retired accountant from Brooklyn \$100,000 poorer. The scheme involved a suddenly frozen computer, an in-person meeting, and a secret code word.

**URL**

<https://ftc.reportfraud.site/info1.html>

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Wed Jan 22 2025 13:29:21 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)



## New York—

A meticulously orchestrated scam left a retired accountant from Brooklyn \$100,000 poorer. The scheme involved a suddenly frozen computer, an in-person meeting, and a secret code word.

The victim later spoke exclusively with CBS New York investigative reporter Mahsa Saeidi, sharing her story in hopes of warning others.

### A Man Claiming to Be a Microsoft Employee Executes the Scam

The woman, who wished to remain anonymous, decided to share her story despite the overwhelming shame she felt. In her interview, she revealed, "I feel deeply humiliated. At one point, I even considered suicide."

The incident unfolded on a July afternoon when her laptop suddenly froze. Shortly afterward, she received a phone call from someone claiming to represent "Microsoft."

"The caller apologized, saying their system had a security flaw that allowed a virus to spread. They told me they wanted to refund the antivirus premium I had previously paid," she recalled.

The man posing as a Microsoft employee then claimed he had mistakenly deposited \$100,000 into her account instead of the intended \$10 refund. He insisted she withdraw the excess funds and return them immediately to correct the "error."

### Deceived and Losing Her Life Savings

The victim explained that when she checked her account, she did see an extra \$100,000 deposited. Wanting to "do the right thing," she followed the instructions provided and went to the bank to withdraw the cash.

At the bank, a teller asked if she was under duress, but she assured them she wasn't, leading to the withdrawal being approved.

A few hours later, she met with a "courier" arranged by the scammer. The fraudster told her the man would identify himself as "Andy" and use the code word "red." Trusting the instructions, she handed over an envelope containing \$100,000 in cash — a third of her life savings.

After realizing she had been scammed, the woman was filled with regret. "How could I have fallen for this?" she lamented.

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After realizing she had been scammed, the woman was filled with regret. "How could I have fallen for this?" she lamented.

### The Truth Behind the Scam: Fraudsters Manipulated the Victim's Accounts

It was later revealed that the so-called "mistaken deposit" of \$100,000 was actually money transferred from the victim's own trust fund account to her personal checking account.

Unbeknownst to her, the scammers had accessed her financial information and manipulated her accounts to make it appear as though the funds came from an external source.

The woman said that when she visited the bank, no one informed her of the day's suspicious account activity. "All they needed to do was check the transfer records. When they asked me, 'Did you make a transfer?' I told them no," she explained.

This lack of timely intervention allowed the scammers to execute their plan, leaving the victim to deal with the devastating financial and emotional fallout.

### Aftermath: Reporting the Scam and Seeking Justice

Upon realizing she had been scammed, the woman promptly reported the incident to the New York Police Department. The authorities verified the details and opened a formal investigation. Additionally, the case was referred to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) for further review.

The victim has since enlisted the services of the law firm Jones Kelleher LLP, which is currently handling efforts to recover the lost funds. However, the financial and emotional toll of the incident remains significant.

### How to Prevent Tech Support Scams

A Microsoft spokesperson stated that tech support scams are a major issue across the industry, but legitimate tech companies will never initiate contact with users or ask them to dial specific numbers.

Jeanine Launay, head of the Elder Abuse Unit at the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, advises the public: "If a pop-up window appears on your computer asking you to call a specific number, do not engage. The proper action is to immediately shut down your computer and unplug it."

Furthermore, if scammers have already obtained your personal information, you should stop all communication with them and take the following actions:

- **Reset your device:** Thoroughly clean and reset your system.

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Furthermore, if scammers have already obtained your personal information, you should stop all communication with them and take the following actions:

- **Reset your device:** Thoroughly clean and reset your system.
- **Change your passwords:** Especially for financial accounts, to ensure your information is secure.

By staying vigilant and understanding these preventative measures, you can significantly reduce the risk of falling victim to similar scams.

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**URL**

<https://ftc.reportfraud.site/info2.html>

**Timestamp**

Wed Jan 22 2025 13:30:30 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)





We speak to victims of fraud and share tips on how to avoid being duped. Scammers are continually devising new ways to con people out of their money, with certain types of fraud, such as identity theft, reaching unprecedented levels.

Every day, the FTC (Federal Trade Commission) receives reports from people who have fallen victim to criminals and are desperate for help. The sums involved vary widely, from less than USD 100 to six-figure losses, and in some heartbreaking cases, victims lose their entire life savings.

According to the banking trade body Asian Development Bank (ADB), fraudsters stole more than USD 1.2 billion from Asian consumers in 2022 – equivalent to more than USD 2,300 every minute – a figure the organization described as “staggering.”

The ongoing cost-of-living crisis has made financially vulnerable individuals even more susceptible to scammers, many of whom use fake deals and discounts as bait to steal personal and financial information.

Below, we share the story of one victim who came to the FTC for help after losing a significant amount of money. We also highlight common scams and provide advice on what to do if you suspect you’ve been targeted.

‘I Lost Everything When Buying a House’

As the completion date for Andrew White’s\* house purchase approached, he received an email from his conveyancing firm detailing when and where to pay the deposit. Following the instructions, he transferred the funds to the designated bank account.

Only after emailing the company to confirm receipt of the money did Andrew discover the funds had not arrived.

A scammer had hacked into the email exchanges between him and his solicitor and, using the same email address, directed him to transfer the money into a fraudulent account. Andrew lost USD 240,000.

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Only after emailing the company to confirm receipt of the money did Andrew discover the funds had not arrived.

A scammer had hacked into the email exchanges between him and his solicitor and, using the same email address, directed him to transfer the money into a fraudulent account. Andrew lost USD 240,000.

Andrew is one of a growing number of property buyers who have fallen victim to conveyancing fraud, also known as “Friday afternoon fraud.” This type of fraud has surged since the COVID-19 pandemic, as solicitors and clients increasingly conduct transactions remotely.

Hackers often strike on Friday afternoons, taking advantage of the weekend delay before victims or law firms notice the fraud. They typically hack either the email account of the conveyancing company or the client, intercepting correspondence about the property transaction.

If the company’s email account is compromised, fraudulent messages are sent from the solicitor’s genuine email address. If the client’s account is targeted, the hacker creates an email address nearly identical to the solicitor’s, replicating headers and footers from authentic correspondence.

Disguised as the solicitor, the fraudster instructs the victim to transfer their deposit into a scam-controlled account. By the time the fraud is detected, the stolen money is often impossible to trace.

Although law firms routinely warn clients that bank details will never be provided via email, these warnings are often buried in introductory materials sent weeks before the transaction or hidden in email footers, where they are easily overlooked.

White, who had trusted the same solicitors’ firm for years, had no reason to doubt the authenticity of the instructions, even though the account name differed from the law firm’s. The email contained the solicitor’s actual name and email address.

Due to HSBC’s daily transfer limit of USD 25,000, Andrew made nine payments over ten days. He claims that the bank did not flag or question the unusual transactions.

“I lost my entire retirement savings while trying to buy a house closer to my family,” says Andrew, a retired teacher.

“The solicitors refuse to admit that their email system was compromised and argue that a brief disclaimer at the bottom of their emails about potential fraud absolves them of any responsibility.”

FTC to the Rescue

Under judicial oversight, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) manages funds recovered from scammers or of unknown origin. These funds are used to help scam victims through legal procedures.

With the assistance of the FTC and legal professionals, Andrew was able to pursue legal action. After a thorough investigation, the FTC

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With the assistance of the FTC and legal professionals, Andrew was able to pursue legal action. After a thorough investigation, the FTC determined that HSBC had failed to adequately question the multiple high-value transactions, despite clear indications of potential fraud.

Following a lengthy legal process, the FTC successfully helped Andrew recover the full USD 240,000 he had lost.

“This has been a nightmare, but I am grateful to the FTC for their support and for ensuring justice was served,” Andrew said. “I hope my story serves as a warning for others to remain vigilant.”

#### Protecting Consumers from Online Scams: FTC’s Role in Replevying Stolen Funds

As the digital world continues to evolve, online scams have become an increasing threat to consumers globally. These scams come in many forms, from phishing emails and fake e-commerce sites to fraudulent investment schemes and identity theft. In response to this growing crisis, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has stepped up its efforts to safeguard consumer rights, focusing not only on prevention and awareness but also on ensuring that victims can recover stolen funds. By collaborating with legal firms, the FTC plays a crucial role in replevying funds lost to online fraud.

Online scams cause billions of dollars in losses every year, with scammers preying on unsuspecting individuals and businesses. Once a scammer gains access to a victim's personal information or transfers funds to fraudulent accounts, it is often challenging for victims to get their money back. This is where the FTC’s partnership with legal professionals becomes vital. The FTC works closely with experienced lawyers to help scam victims recover the funds they have lost.

Replevying funds—recovering stolen money—is a key part of the FTC’s efforts. Through collaboration with legal attorney firms, the FTC takes swift legal action to track down fraudsters, seize funds, and return the money to victims. By engaging in legal proceedings, filing lawsuits, and utilizing enforcement mechanisms, the FTC ensures that perpetrators are held accountable, while also facilitating the process for victims to reclaim their stolen assets.

One of the primary ways the FTC collaborates with law firms is by identifying cases with clear fraudulent activity, gathering evidence, and pursuing restitution through legal channels. These efforts often involve coordinating with international authorities and financial institutions to trace the flow of stolen funds across borders. Legal professionals guide victims through the complex process of replevying their funds, ensuring they receive the compensation they are entitled to.

In addition to focusing on recovery, the FTC continues to raise awareness about online scams and provides resources to help consumers avoid

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In addition to focusing on recovery, the FTC continues to raise awareness about online scams and provides resources to help consumers avoid falling victim in the first place. They offer educational programs, create informative guidelines for identifying legitimate platforms, and alert consumers to the latest types of scams. However, the most significant impact has been the FTC's ability to not only prevent fraud but also offer real solutions for victims seeking to replevy their funds.

The FTC's collaboration with legal firms is a game-changer for victims of online fraud. By actively working to recover stolen funds, the FTC offers hope to those who have been defrauded, demonstrating the government's commitment to consumer protection. Through this combined effort, the FTC strengthens trust in digital transactions and ensures that consumers have access to justice and financial recovery in an increasingly digital world.

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Georgina's children signed her up for Facebook and gave her some basic lessons on how to use it. "They told me everyone was using it and that it would help us keep in touch and see photos of my grandchildren," she explained.

One day, Georgina received a friend request from a serviceman on peacekeeping duties in Afghanistan. She decided to accept the request and allowed "Jim" to be her Facebook friend. It didn't start as a romance, but Jim told her he was lonely and looking for friends to keep him company while stationed in the middle of nowhere. Soon after becoming friends, Jim confided that he had lost his wife to cancer. His story struck a chord with Georgina, as it was similar to her own experience of losing her husband to the same disease.

"He then said he was being posted to Nigeria, but his time in the U.S. military was nearly finished. He sent me pictures, which I now know were stolen from someone else on the internet. He kept saying he couldn't wait for us to be together. We became very close, and he emailed me every day, saying it was easier for him than using Facebook."

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One day, Georgina received a friend request from a serviceman on peacekeeping duties in Afghanistan. She decided to accept the request and allowed "Jim" to be her Facebook friend. It didn't start as a romance, but Jim told her he was lonely and looking for friends to keep him company while stationed in the middle of nowhere. Soon after becoming friends, Jim confided that he had lost his wife to cancer. His story struck a chord with Georgina, as it was similar to her own experience of losing her husband to the same disease.

"He then said he was being posted to Nigeria, but his time in the U.S. military was nearly finished. He sent me pictures, which I now know were stolen from someone else on the internet. He kept saying he couldn't wait for us to be together. We became very close, and he emailed me every day, saying it was easier for him than using Facebook."

Jim, who was actually a scammer, shared his dreams of starting a jewelry business when he retired. He told Georgina that being in Nigeria was ideal because it was close to the mines where gemstones were sourced, allowing him to purchase them at low prices.

Jim told Georgina he was planning to visit her, but he encountered a problem: his bank card wasn't working in Nigeria, and he couldn't pay an export tax on the gemstones he had bought. He explained that the tax was only two percent of the value of the gemstones but still amounted to \$15,000. Trusting him, Georgina transferred the money, believing that Jim was a good and honest serviceman. She was confident that if things worked out, they would spend the rest of their lives together.

However, the situation worsened when Jim claimed that during a stopover in Malaysia, customs officials seized the gemstones and demanded \$20,000 to release them. "I told him it would take some time to get the money, and I had to borrow against the family home," Georgina admitted.

After sending the money to Malaysian officials, she received another troubling update: Jim had been arrested for smuggling and needed legal help. Georgina was instructed to contact his lawyer.

"The lawyer told me Jim needed an Anti-Terrorism and Money Laundering certificate, which would cost \$10,000. On top of that, I had to cover court costs and the lawyer's fees, which came to another \$5,000."

Despite the growing financial strain, Georgina sent the money. But the demands didn't stop. Jim claimed that another government official was demanding additional fees to extend his visa while he waited for the court to process his documents.

"Almost every day, I was contacted with new requests for money. They sent me certificates signed by officials, forms to fill out, and bills for everything. If I wanted to get anything done quickly, I had to pay extra fees. It seemed like the entire Malaysian government was corrupt. I don't even know how much money I sent in total, but it was well over \$100,000. I didn't care about the money. I just wanted to help Jim, and I honestly thought he would pay me back."

Even when Georgina ran out of money, the demands continued. Feeling overwhelmed and unsure of what to do, she finally contacted the police.

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Even when Georgina ran out of money, the demands continued. Feeling overwhelmed and unsure of what to do, she finally contacted the police. They explained that her experience was typical of a dating and romance scam. Unfortunately, they told her it was highly unlikely she would recover any of her money.

However, Georgina didn't give up. She sought legal help and filed a report with the FTC. With their assistance and support from a legal team, she was able to freeze some of the scammers' accounts and recover a significant portion of her money. After a lengthy legal process, Georgina successfully reclaimed over 80% of her losses.

"This experience taught me the importance of acting quickly and seeking legal assistance. Although it was a painful journey, I'm relieved to have recovered much of my money, and I hope my story will warn others to be cautious," she said.

This story is based on one or more real scam reports received by the FTC. For privacy purposes, the names and images of victims have not been used.

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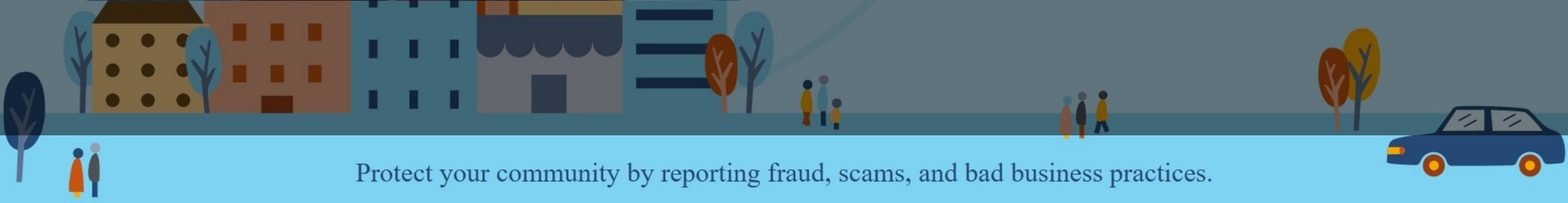


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The FTC is investigating and seizing \$200 million in illegal funds. Please don't be fooled again.

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[Report to the FTC](#)



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Our team of experienced attorneys and notaries, with offices in Montreal, Toronto, Florida and California, is uniquely positioned to recommend and implement strategies that meet the legal and tax requirements of clients in all three countries.

The Smith Allen LLP team is led by Alan Garrett Smith, whose highly developed expertise, extensive knowledge

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transfer your money to "protect it," or tell you to withdraw cash or buy gold and give it to someone.

Learn more at [ftc.gov/impersonators](https://ftc.gov/impersonators)



Fraudsters are now using individuals seeking remote work to scam millions of dollars in cryptocurrency.

We are helping victims recover funds from a new cryptocurrency scam disguised as remote work.



Brooklyn Woman Falls Victim to Tech Support Scam, Loses \$100,000

A meticulously orchestrated scam left a retired accountant from Brooklyn \$100,000 poorer.



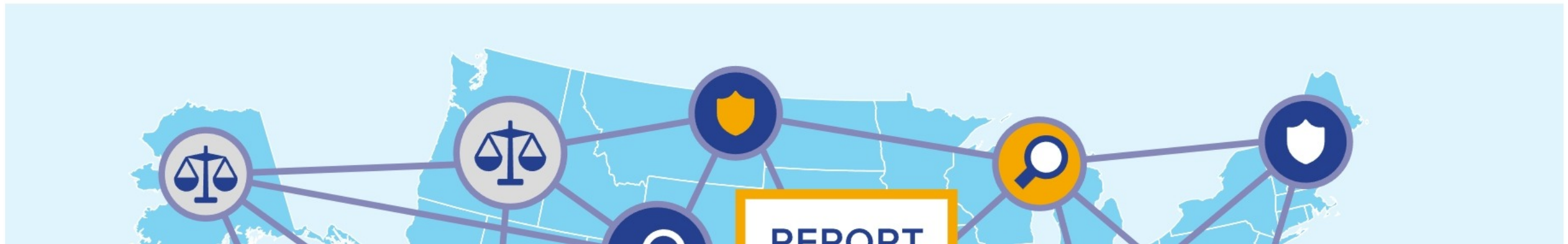
Scammers stole more than USD 1.2 billion from Asian consumers in 2022.

We speak to victims of fraud and share tips on how to avoid being duped.



Georgina's Fight Against a Costly Romance Scam

Georgina's children signed her up for Facebook and gave her some basic lessons on how to use it.



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**Start your report now**, or check out what is going on in your state or metro area by visiting **[ftc.gov/exploredata](https://ftc.gov/exploredata)**.

[ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://reportfraud.ftc.gov) is the federal government's website where you can report fraud, scams, and bad business practices.

Visit [consumer.ftc.gov](https://consumer.ftc.gov) to find tips and learn how to avoid scams.

[Privacy Policy](#)



FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION  
**ReportFraud.ftc.gov**

SMITH ALLEN LLP  
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<https://www.facebook.com/FTCJuniperElowen/>

FTC Fraud Complaint Center

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FTC Fraud Complaint Center

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OMB CONTROL#: 3084-0169

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, federal agencies are not allowed to collect information from the public without a valid OMB control number.

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