

# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, DC 20580

Bureau of Consumer Protection Division of Marketing Practices Lois C. Greisman Associate Director (202) 326-3404 Igreisman@ftc.gov

January 13, 2025

#### Via Email and Mail

Hosting Concepts B.V. d/b/a Registrar.eu Kipstraat 3c-5c Rotterdam 3011 RR Netherlands

Email: abuse@registrar.eu

Re: Impersonation of the Federal Trade Commission and Unauthorized Use of its Logo by Domains Registered by Hosting Concepts B.V. d/b/a Registrar.eu ("Registrar.eu")

To Whom It May Concern:

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

As shown in the attached screenshots, ftc-gov[.]us is virtually indistinguishable from the FTC's official website, ftc.gov. The ftc-gov[.]us homepage appears to be a clone of the FTC's homepage, with the same layout, wording, and design. Like the FTC's own website, consumers visiting ftc-gov[.]us are directed to "Report Fraud," but instead of being directed to the FTC's reporting tool, consumers are directed to input their data into a form located at ftc-gov.us/ReportFraud.ftc.gov%20-%20Forms.html. Throughout the subpages, the website shows a replica of the FTC's logo and mirrors the format and wording of the FTC's official website.

The FTC is not affiliated with the entities or individuals operating ftc-gov[.]us. 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 Registrar.eu regarding this urgent consumer protection matter promptly. Please direct any questions, and a copy of your response, to Virginia Rosa, vrosa@ftc.gov, 202-326-3068.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lois C. Greisman
Lois C. Greisman



Advice and Guidance V News and Events V About the FTC V



Address the commission and learn more about what's happening at the agency during this live event on January 14 starting at 11am ET.

View the Event Page

#### Take Action

Report fraud

Submit a public comment

Merger/Antitrust Comment

\$ Get your free credit report

Report identity theft

Register for Do Not Call

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



#### Franchise Guidance

Learn more about the FTC's rules and regulations around purchasing and maintaining a franchise.



#### Fair Credit Reporting Act

Do you use credit reports to make eligibility decisions about consumers? Learn about the Fair Credit Reporting Act and how to responsibly use, report and dispose of information in those reports.



#### COPPA: What You Should Know

The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (also known as COPPA) allows parents to control what information websites can collect from their kids.

Sign up to get e-mail updates.

Stay connected









# News and Updates

# Press Release

Stem Cell Institute Co-Founders and Companies Banned from Marketing Stem Cell Treatments and Ordered to Pay More Than \$5.1 Million for Refunds and Civil Penalties

January 8, 2025

All press releases



#### Data Visualizations

Use our visualizations to explore scam and fraud trends in your state based on reports from consumers like you.

Explore data

# Consumer Alert

The very picture of public service

Jennifer Leach January 10, 2025

#### Consumer Alert

Identity Theft Awareness Week 2025 is coming!

Eunice Kim January 8, 2025

#### Consumer Alert

Taking the guesswork out of gigs

Gema de las Heras January 7, 2025

#### Open Meetings

Track enforcement and policy developments by viewing records from the Commission's open meetings - agendas, transcripts, videos, reports, and public comments.

Open Meetings archive

#### Featured Video



IdentityTheft.gov Helps You Report and Recover from Identity Theft



Report Fraud

**Get Consumer Alerts** 

Search the Legal Library

Submit Public Comments

### Enforcement

Cases and Proceedings **Premerger Notification** 

Program Merger Review

**Anticompetitive Practices** 

Rulemaking

Statutes

Competition and Consumer

**Protection Guidance** 

**Documents** 

Warning Letters

Consumer Sentinel Network

Criminal Liaison Unit

**FTC Refund Programs** 

Notices of Penalty Offenses Competition Matters Blog

### Policy

Advocacy and Research **Advisory Opinions** Cooperation Agreements

Federal Register Notices Reports

**Public Comments** Studies Testimony

**Policy Statements** 

International Office of Technology Blog

### **Advice and Guidance**

Consumer Advice

Military Consumer Consumer.gov

**Business Guidance** Competition Guidance **Bulk Publications** 

#### News

Events

Features

Topics **Data and Visualizations** 

Contests Stay Connected

**News and Events** 

### About the FTC

Mission History

Commissioners and Staff

**Bureaus and Offices Budget and Strategy** 

Office of Inspector General Careers at the FTC

Contact



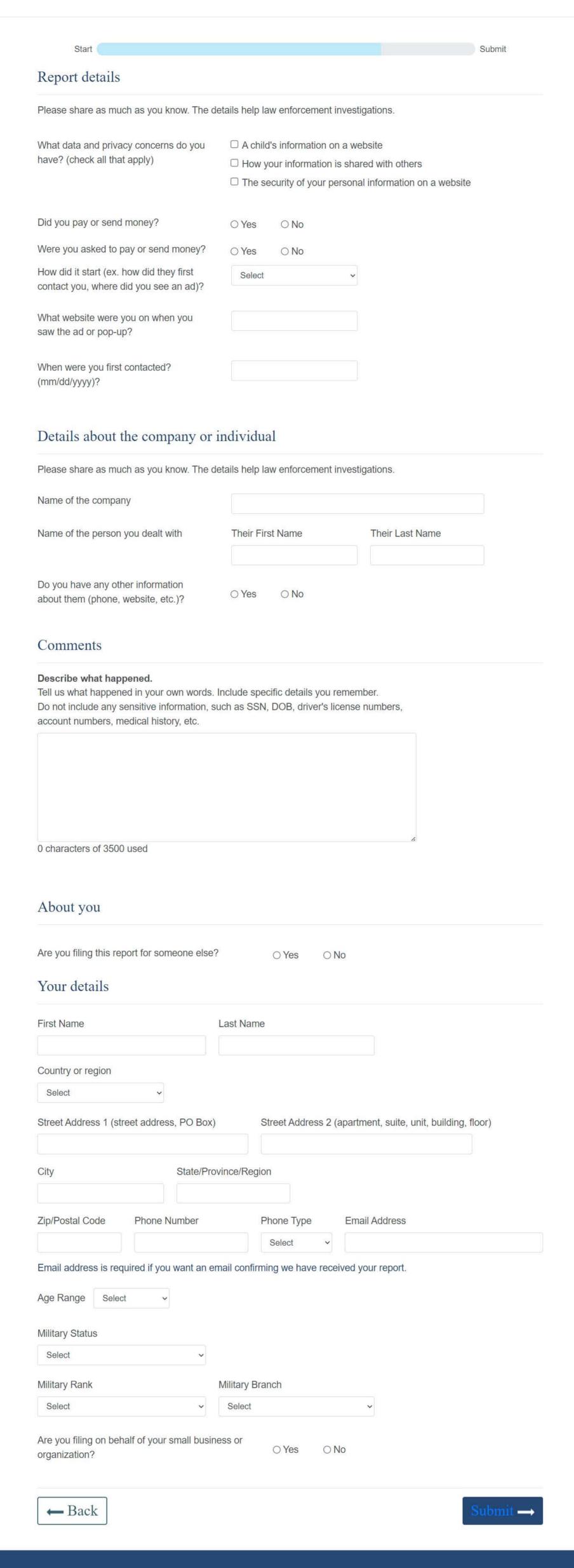
Oops, looks like the page is lost.

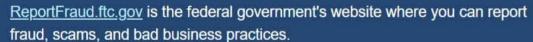
This is not a fault, just an accident that was not intentional.











Visit consumer.ftc.gov to find tips and learn how to avoid scams.

**Privacy Policy** 





#### How it works



#### Tell us what happened

An official website of the United States government Here's how you know

Report a scam, a company, or an unwanted call.

#### Get your next steps

Find out what you can do to protect yourself.

#### Help stop fraud

We use and share reports with our law enforcement partners to help with investigations.

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

# The power of ReportFraud.ftc.gov

Your report is shared with more than 2,800 law enforcers.

We can't resolve your individual report, but we use reports to investigate and bring cases against fraud, scams, and bad business practices.

Read our **Privacy Act statement** to learn more about how we collect and use your information.



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

ReportFraud.ftc.gov is the federal government's website where you can report fraud, scams, and bad business practices.

Visit  $\underline{\text{consumer.ftc.gov}}$  to find tips and learn how to avoid scams.

Privacy Policy



FAQs

Languages

ארייקעי 简体中文 繁體中文 Français Hmoob 한국어 Pyccкий Soomaali Español Tagalog українська Tiếng Việt Other Languages

Report Now

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.