



TNEJC WEEKLY UPDATE

INTELLIGENCE, PREVENTION & ACTION FOR TENNESSEE'S ELDER JUSTICE NETWORK

THE WEEK IN ELDER JUSTICE

Recovery scams deliver a second strike.

A Knoxville federal sentence and a new FBI warning show the same pattern: prior fraud victims are being targeted again by people posing as investigators, recovery specialists, or government officials.

EAST TENNESSEE ENFORCEMENT

14 years in prison. \$936,215 in restitution.

An Atlanta man was sentenced in federal court in Knoxville after a jury found him guilty of mail and wire fraud. The evidence showed that he and others posed as federal agents and promised older investors they could recover earlier losses. Victims instead paid fake fees, taxes, and court costs - and lost more money.

Read the U.S. Attorney's Office release

NATIONAL FBI WARNING

Fake FBI and IC3 contacts now use AI and spoofed sites.

The FBI says scammers are impersonating FBI and IC3 personnel to revictimize people who already lost money. They are using fake social-media profiles, AI-generated videos, and websites that imitate IC3.gov. IC3 does not recover funds through social media and will never charge a fee to recover money.

Read the FBI / IC3 public service announcement

TNEJC TAKEAWAY: NEVER PAY TO RECOVER STOLEN MONEY

- Government agencies and legitimate law enforcement do not charge fees, taxes, bonds, or deposits to recover fraud losses.
- Type IC3.gov directly. Do not trust sponsored search results, social-media profiles, or links sent by a stranger.
- Verify unexpected government contacts through a publicly listed number before sharing information or moving money.
- Report quickly and preserve names, phone numbers, messages, receipts, account details, and crypto addresses.

LOCAL WARNING FROM ORNL FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Fraudsters can spoof ORNL FCU's telephone number.

ORNL FCU says it will never request remote access to your computer; ask for verification codes, usernames, passwords, or PINs; or direct you to buy gift cards or transfer money through Venmo, Cash App, or another payment service. When unsure, hang up and call 800-676-5328 directly.

Sources reviewed through August 3, 2026. Linked article areas open the original government or consumer-protection source.



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TENNESSEE CONSUMER PROTECTION

Tennessee presses the FCC to make scam calls harder to launch

Tennessee joined a bipartisan coalition of 49 attorneys general urging stronger FCC safeguards for companies that obtain and resell telephone numbers. The proposal would improve customer identification, reporting, and traceability while restricting number cycling and trial numbers used to evade spam detection. The Attorney General reported an estimated 29.6 billion scam robocalls and texts nationwide last year, with losses approaching \$2 billion.

Source: *Tennessee Attorney General - July 9, 2026*

PAYMENT-APP ACCOUNTABILITY

Cash App settlement requires stronger fraud support and clearer promises

A \$45 million multistate settlement with Block, Inc. resolves allegations that Cash App overstated its safety, failed to protect users from rising fraud, and did not provide required support or reimbursement. Tennessee will receive \$737,136.95. The settlement requires improved customer support, consumer education, fraud-claim investigations, and an end to misleading safety claims.

Source: *Tennessee Attorney General - July 9, 2026*

COALITION ACTION AGENDA

- Financial institutions: create a clear escalation path when an older customer mentions fees to recover earlier losses.
- Senior centers and service providers: teach the phrase, "No legitimate agency charges a victim to recover money."
- Law enforcement and advocates: ask whether a new report follows an earlier scam; revictimization may be part of the same criminal network.
- Families: use one trusted callback number and a private verification phrase before any payment.

TENNESSEE FRONT

Crypto ATM ban remains in effect

A federal court declined to block Tennessee's virtual-currency-kiosk ban while litigation continues. Public Chapter 766 makes operating or allowing a crypto kiosk a Class A misdemeanor. Partners should watch for displacement into wires, payment apps, direct exchange transfers, cash, gold, and couriers.

Source: *Tennessee Attorney General*

DECEMBER 2026

Tennessee Elder Justice Conference

Planning is underway for the December 2026 Tennessee Elder Justice Conference. TNEJC, ETHRA, ETAAAD, and statewide partners are developing practical sessions on prevention, investigation, victim support, and collaboration. Location and registration details will follow when finalized.

REPORT. INTERRUPT. SUPPORT.

Immediate danger: 911

Tennessee APS:
1-888-277-8366

Elder Fraud Hotline:
1-833-FRAUD-11

Online: IC3.gov
ReportFraud.ftc.gov

Sources reviewed through August 3, 2026. Hyperlinked source labels open the original official page.