

Taxonomy of fraud

Attribute Tags				
Incident Tags			Victim Tags	Perpetrator Tags
General Incident Tags AF - Affinity fraud PS - Pyramid scheme PZ - Ponzi scheme IG - Impersonated Government official PD - Pump & dump scheme HM - Health or medical related fraud CS - Continuity scam OV - Overpayment fraud CP - Counterfeit payment instrument Method of Advertising the Fraud Ad:IE - Internet, email Ad:TX - Text/direct message Ad:DM - Direct mail Ad:TVR - TV or radio Ad:T - Telemarketing Ad:P - In person	Purchase Setting PS:I - Computer via the Internet PS:M - Mail PS:T - Telephone PS:S - Store PS:P - Person to person Method of Money Transfer MT:CC - Credit card MT:DC - Debit/ATM card MT:C - Cash MP:PC - Personal check MT:M - Mobile/online payment application MT:MO - Money order MT:W - Wire funds MT:T - Telephone account MT:PP - Prepaid Card MT:B - Bitcoin	Dollar loss categories Duration of incident	MV - Male victim FV - Female victim EV - Elder victim (age 65+) VV - Veteran victim CIV - Cognitively impaired victim RV - Repeat victim RA - Victim reported fraud to authorities	MP - Male perp FP - Female perp IP - Intimate partner perp FP - Family member perp CP - Caregiver perp

Category	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
	Who is the target?	What is the fraud category?	What is the type of fraud?	Some common examples or more specific sub-types	Some common examples or more specific sub-types
1	Individual Financial Fraud (Fraud against an individual)	1.1 Consumer Investment Fraud (expected investment returns)	1.1.1 Securities fraud	1.1.1.1 Equity investment fraud	1.1.1.1.1 Penny stock fraud
			1.1.1.2 Debt investment fraud	1.1.1.1.2 Other securities fraud	1.1.1.1.2 Pre-IPO scam
			1.1.1.2 Commodities trading fraud	1.1.1.2.1 Forex (foreign exchange) fraud	1.1.1.1.3 High-yield investment program fraud
			1.1.1.3 Other investment opportunities fraud	1.1.1.2.2 Commodity pool fraud	1.1.1.1.4 REIT (Real Estate Investment Trust) fraud
				1.1.1.2.3 Precious metals fraud	1.1.1.1.5 Oil & gas exploration scam
				1.1.1.2.99 Other commodities fraud	1.1.1.1.6 Alternative energy company scam
				1.1.1.3.1 Hollywood film scam	1.1.1.1.99 Other equity (stock) fraud
				1.1.1.3.2 Property/real estate scam	1.1.1.2.1 Promissory note fraud
				1.1.1.3.3 Rare objects scam	1.1.1.2.2 Prime bank note fraud
					1.1.1.2.3 Bond fraud
					1.1.1.2.99 Other debt investment fraud
1.2	Consumer Products and Services Fraud (expected products, services, and other items)	1.2.1 Worthless or non-existent products (intentionally entered agreement)	1.2.1.1 Worthless products	1.2.1.1.1 Paid never received	1.2.1.1.1 Weight-loss products and health supplement scams
			1.2.1.2 Debt relief scam	1.2.1.1.2 Pharma discount scam	1.2.1.1.2 Pharma discount scam
			1.2.1.2.1 Phony insurance	1.2.1.1.3 Medical devices	1.2.1.1.3 Medical devices
			1.2.1.2.2 Immigration services/Notario fraud	1.2.1.1.4 Cemetery plot scam	1.2.1.1.4 Cemetery plot scam
			1.2.1.2.3 Invention fraud	1.2.1.1.5 Fake memorabilia	1.2.1.1.5 Fake memorabilia
			1.2.1.2.4 Fraud loss recovery	1.2.1.1.6 Bogus software	1.2.1.1.6 Bogus software
			1.2.1.2.5 Debt relief scam	1.2.1.1.7 Fake gemstones	1.2.1.1.7 Fake gemstones
			1.2.1.2.6 Credit repair scam	1.2.1.1.99 Other	1.2.1.1.99 Other
			1.2.1.2.7 Fake credit lines and loans	1.2.1.2.1 Online marketplace fraud	1.2.1.2.1 Online marketplace fraud
			1.2.1.2.8 Fortune telling fraud	1.2.1.2.99 Other	1.2.1.2.99 Other
			1.2.1.2.9 Phishing websites/emails/calls		
			1.2.1.2.10 Timeshare resale fraud		
			1.2.1.2.11 Adoption scam		
			1.2.1.2.12 Internet gambling fraud		
			1.2.1.2.13 Fake buyers scam		
			1.2.1.2.14 Unnecessary or overpriced repairs, or repairs never performed		
			1.2.1.2.15 Travel booking scam		
			1.2.1.2.16 Website hosting/design scam		
			1.2.1.2.17 Domain name scam		
			1.2.1.2.99 Other		
		1.2.3 Unauthorized billing for products or services	1.2.3.1 Buyer's clubs		
			1.2.3.2 Unauthorized billing - Internet services		
			1.2.3.3 Unauthorized billing - Phone services		
			1.2.3.4 Unauthorized billing - Magazines		
			1.2.3.5 Unauthorized billing - Credit monitoring services		
		1.2.99 Other consumer products & services	1.2.3.99 Other		
					1.2.2.5.1 Credit card debt relief scam
					1.2.2.5.2 Mortgage relief scam
					1.2.2.5.3 Student debt relief scam
					1.2.2.5.4 Medical debt relief scam
					1.2.2.5.99 Other
					1.2.2.7.1 Fake loans
					1.2.2.7.2 Fake credit lines/credit cards
					1.2.2.7.99 Other
					1.2.2.9.1 Tech support scam
					1.2.2.9.2 Spoofing websites
					1.2.2.9.99 Other
					1.2.2.14.1 Auto repair fraud
					1.2.2.14.2 Home repair fraud
					1.2.2.14.99 Other
					1.2.3.2.1 Online yellow pages
					1.2.3.2.99 Other
					1.2.3.3.1 Cramming
					1.2.3.3.2 Slamming
					1.2.3.3.99 Other

1.3	Employment Fraud <i>(expected employment)</i>	1.3.1 Business opportunities fraud 1.3.2 Work-at-home scam 1.3.3 Government job placement scam 1.3.4 Other employment scam	1.3.1.1 Multi-level marketing scheme 1.3.1.2 Vending machines/ATM leasing scam 1.3.1.3 House flipping courses 1.3.1.4 Business coaching scam 1.3.1.99 Other 1.3.2.1 Home assembly 1.3.2.2 Envelope stuffing 1.3.2.3 Mystery Shopper 1.3.2.4 Reshipping 1.3.2.99 Other 1.3.4.1 Nanny scam 1.3.4.2 Modeling fraud
1.4	Prize and Grant Fraud <i>(expected winnings in the form of a prize, lottery, grant, or other windfall of money)</i>	1.4.1 Prize promotion/Sweepstakes scam 1.4.2 Bogus lottery scam 1.4.3 Nigerian letter fraud 1.4.4 Government grant scam 1.4.5 Inheritance scam 1.4.6 IRS tax refund opportunity 1.4.99 Other prize & grant fraud	1.4.1.1 Free product 1.4.1.2 Free vacation 1.4.1.3 Cash Prize 1.4.1.4 Sweepstakes scam 1.4.1.99 Other 1.4.2.1 Foreign lottery scam 1.4.2.99 Other
1.5	Phantom Debt Collection Fraud <i>(expected benefit is avoiding the consequences of failing to pay debts that the victim did not previously know were owed [and that turn out to be fake])</i>	1.5.1 Government debt collections scam 1.5.2 Lender debt collection scam 1.5.3 Business debt collection scam 1.5.99 Other phantom debt fraud	1.5.1.1 Court impersonation scam 1.5.1.2 IRS back taxes scheme 1.5.1.99 Other 1.5.2.1 Obituary scam 1.5.2.2 Loan debt scam 1.5.2.99 Other 1.5.3.1 Fake health and medical debt 1.5.3.99 Other
1.6	Charity Fraud <i>(expected outcome is charitable giving)</i>	1.6.1 Bogus charitable organization 1.6.2 Crowdfunding for bogus cause 1.6.99 Other charity fraud	1.6.1.1 Bogus natural disaster-related charity 1.6.1.2 Bogus disease-related charity 1.6.1.3 Bogus law enforcement charity 1.6.1.4 Bogus veteran charity 1.6.1.5 Bogus church/religious group charity 1.6.1.6 Bogus animal shelter 1.6.1.7 Bogus alumni charitable giving 1.6.1.8 Bogus children's charity 1.6.1.9 Bogus political group 1.6.1.10 Bogus youth organization 1.6.1.99 Other 1.6.2.1 Fake personal medical expenses 1.6.2.2 False identity as natural disaster or national tragedy survivor 1.6.2.99 Other
1.7	Relationship & Trust Fraud <i>(expected outcome is fostering a relationship)</i>	1.7.1 Romance scam/Sweetheart scam 1.7.2 Friends or relatives imposter scam 1.7.99 Other relationship & trust fraud	1.7.2.1 Grandparent scam 1.7.2.99 Other

Detailed analysis of fraud committed against organizations is beyond the scope of this taxonomy, but these other fraud types would fall into the categories outlined below. See the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners' (ACFE) "Fraud Tree" (available online) for a detailed categorization of occupational fraud. A corollary project to expand levels 4 and 5 is forthcoming with the ACFE.

Category				
2	Fraud against an organization	2.1 Fraud against government agencies, programs, regulations, and society 2.2 Fraud against non-governmental businesses or organizations	2.1.1 Government Programs 2.1.2 Government Regulations 2.1.3 Other 2.2.1 Occupational Fraud (committed by internal perpetrator) 2.2.2 Fraud committed by external perpetrator	Examples include: Welfare fraud, Disability fraud, Medicare fraud, Medicaid fraud Examples include: Immigration fraud, Voting fraud, Tax fraud, Stamp fraud Examples include: Insider trading, Environmental fraud Corruption Asset misappropriation Financial statement fraud Examples include: Insurance fraud, Bank fraud, Fraudulent suppliers, etc.