



# SEC OIG FRAUD ALERT

June 22, 2026



## BEWARE OF FRAUDSTERS PURPORTING TO BE EMPLOYEES OF OR INVESTIGATORS FOR THE UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Office of Inspector General (OIG) is alerting you to fraudsters purporting to be SEC officials. Recently an individual purporting to be an SEC “Investigative Officer” attempted to get personally identifiable and financial information from a victim via telephone and email (Ex. 1). The fraudster(s) backstopped the initial contact by providing fraudulent “credentials” and contact information for a fake U.S. District “Court Clerk” who later claimed to have verified the bona fides of the fake SEC investigator.

The fraudsters’ emails were identifiable because they came from **non-government domains**; specifically from **XXX@dcourt.us.org and XXX.sec@protonmail.com**. SEC OIG is also aware of the following non-government domains used in similar impersonation schemes: **payments@helpsec.exchange, XXX@secgovs.com, XXX.sec.gov@solutioncenter.pro, XXX@sec.gov-us.online and XXX@hedgesec.com**, among others.

### WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

- Do not provide any personal information over the phone until you verify the authenticity of the request.
- Check email header information by hovering over the email address with your cursor. **All SEC communications should come from an “@sec.gov” email** (never from a “.com,” “.edu,” “.org,” “.us,” or other non-government email).
- Know whom you are working with and verify their identity with the SEC via the SEC personnel locator (1-202-551-6000) or with the [Office of Investor Education and Assistance \(OIEA\)](#) via [help@sec.gov](#) and/or the [OIEA webform](#).

### If you think you’ve been victimized:

- Contact local law enforcement;
- File a report with the [FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center](#); and
- And if you think someone is defrauding victims by pretending to be affiliated with the SEC, contact SEC OIG via our [hotline portal](#) or call 1-(833)-SEC-OIG1.



----- Forwarded Message -----  
**Subject:**Follow-Up **Ex. 1 – Initial email and “credentials”**  
**Date:**Wed, 04 Mar 2026 18:56:16 +0000  
**From:**Frank Harris <[frankharris.sec@protonmail.com](mailto:frankharris.sec@protonmail.com)>  
 [Redacted]

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for taking the time to speak with us today. I sincerely appreciate your willingness to cooperate.

Based on our conversation, and contingent upon your ability to provide the documentation you indicated you may still possess — including emails, wire transfer records, contracts, and any other materials pertaining to your investments — I believe there is a strong possibility that your name may be considered within the initial tier of settlements.

As discussed, it is imperative that all communications and correspondence regarding this matter remain strictly confidential.

I look forward to working closely with you in the coming days and weeks to help achieve a favorable resolution. As previously stated, any approved settlements will be distributed through the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., administered by the appointed third-party administrator and trustees.

For your reference, I have attached a copy of my credentials from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to this email.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email at your earliest convenience. I will also be following up with you shortly to confirm delivery.

Thank you again for your anticipated cooperation.

Sincerely,  
 Frank Harris  
 Investigative Officer  
 U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission  
 202 793 8678

