

Taxonomy of fraud

Attribute Tags			
Incident Tags		Victim 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	Perpetrator Tags 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

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 1.1.1.2 Debt investment fraud 1.1.1.3 Other securities fraud 1.1.2.1 Forex (foreign exchange) fraud 1.1.2.2 Commodity pool fraud 1.1.2.3 Precious metals fraud 1.1.2.4 Other commodities fraud 1.1.3.1 Hollywood film scam 1.1.3.2 Property/real estate scam 1.1.3.3 Rare objects scam	1.1.1.1.1 Penny stock fraud 1.1.1.1.2 Pre-IPO scam 1.1.1.1.3 High-yield investment program fraud 1.1.1.1.4 REIT (Real Estate Investment Trust) fraud 1.1.1.1.5 Oil & gas exploration scam 1.1.1.1.6 Alternative energy company scam 1.1.1.1.7 Other equity (stock) fraud 1.1.1.2.1 Promissory note fraud 1.1.1.2.2 Prime bank note fraud 1.1.1.2.3 Bond fraud 1.1.1.2.4 Other debt investment fraud	
			1.1.2 Commodities trading fraud	1.1.3 Other investment opportunities fraud	1.2.1 Worthless or non-existent products (intentionally entered agreement)	1.2.1.1 Worthless products 1.2.1.2 Paid never received 1.2.1.3 Other worthless/non-existent products 1.2.2.1 Phony insurance 1.2.2.2 Immigration services/Notario fraud 1.2.2.3 Invention fraud 1.2.2.4 Fraud loss recovery 1.2.2.5 Debt relief scam 1.2.2.6 Credit repair scam 1.2.2.7 Fake credit lines and loans 1.2.2.8 Fortune telling fraud 1.2.2.9 Phishing websites/emails/calls 1.2.2.10 Timeshare resale fraud 1.2.2.11 Adoption scam 1.2.2.12 Internet gambling fraud 1.2.2.13 Fake buyers scam 1.2.2.14 Unnecessary or overpriced repairs, or repairs never performed 1.2.2.15 Travel booking scam 1.2.2.16 Website hosting/design scam 1.2.2.17 Domain name scam 1.2.2.18 Other 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 1.2.3.6 Other unauthorized billing fraud
1.2 Consumer Products and Services Fraud (expected products, services, and other items)	1.2.2 Worthless, unnecessary, or non-existent services (intentionally entered agreement)		1.2.3 Unauthorized billing for products or services	1.2.4 Other consumer products & services		

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5		
1.3	Employment Fraud <i>(expected employment)</i>	1.3.1 Business opportunities fraud	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		
			1.3.1.5	Other		
		1.3.2 Work-at-home scam	1.3.2.1	Home assembly		
			1.3.2.2	Envelope stuffing		
			1.3.2.3	Mystery Shopper		
			1.3.2.4	Reshipping		
			1.3.2.5	Other		
		1.3.3	Government job placement scam			
		1.3.4 Other employment scam	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	1.4.1.1	Free product
					1.4.1.2	Free vacation
					1.4.1.3	Cash Prize
					1.4.1.4	Sweepstakes scam
1.4.1.5	Other					
1.4.2 Bogus lottery scam	1.4.2.1			Foreign lottery scam		
	1.4.2.2			Other		
1.4.3	Nigerian letter fraud					
1.4.4	Government grant scam					
1.4.5	Inheritance scam					
1.4.6	IRS tax refund opportunity					
1.4.7	Other prize & grant fraud					
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	1.5.1.1	Court impersonation scam		
			1.5.1.2	IRS back taxes scheme		
			1.5.1.3	Other		
		1.5.2 Lender debt collection scam	1.5.2.1	Obituary scam		
			1.5.2.2	Loan debt scam		
		1.5.3 Business debt collection scam	1.5.2.3	Other		
			1.5.3.1	Fake health and medical debt		
1.5.4	Other phantom debt fraud	1.5.3.2	Other			
1.6	Charity Fraud <i>(expected outcome is charitable giving)</i>	1.6.1 Bogus charitable organization	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		
			1.6.1.11	Other		
		1.6.2 Crowdfunding for bogus cause	1.6.2.1	Fake personal medical expenses		
			1.6.2.2	False identity as natural disaster or national tragedy survivor		
1.6.3	Other charity fraud	1.6.2.3	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	1.7.2.1	Grandparent scam		
			1.7.2.2	Other		
		1.7.3	Other relationship & trust fraud			

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	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
2	2.1 Fraud against government agencies, programs, regulations, and society	2.1.1	Government Programs	Examples include: Welfare fraud, Disability fraud, Medicare fraud, Medicaid fraud
		2.1.2	Government Regulations	Examples include: Immigration fraud, Voting fraud, Tax fraud, Stamp fraud
		2.1.3	Other	Examples include: Insider trading, Environmental fraud
	2.2 Fraud against non-governmental businesses or organizations	2.2.1	Occupational Fraud (committed by internal perpetrator)	Corruption Asset misappropriation Financial statement fraud
		2.2.2	Fraud committed by external perpetrator	Examples include: Insurance fraud, Bank fraud, Fraudulent suppliers, etc.