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## **FBI INVESTIGATION**

These crimes are not violent, but they are not victimless. White-collar crimes can destroy a company, wipe out a person's life savings, cost investors billions of dollars, and erode the public's trust in institutions.

The FBI's white-collar crime program focuses on analyzing intelligence and solving complex investigations—often with a connection to organized crime activities. Our white-collar crime investigations can be regional, national, and/or international.

The FBI works closely with partner law enforcement and regulatory agencies like:

- the Securities and Exchange Commission
- the Internal Revenue Service
- the U.S. Postal Inspection Service
- the Commodity Futures Trading Commission
- the Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network

Economic espionage costs the American economy hundreds of billions of dollars per year and puts our national security at risk. These foreign competitors deliberately target economic intelligence in advanced technologies and successful U.S. industries.

Historically, economic espionage has targeted defense-related and high-tech industries. But recent FBI cases have shown that no industry, large or small, is immune to the threat. Any company with a proprietary product, process, or idea can be a target. Any unprotected trade secret can be illegally stolen.

In addition to its investigative work, the FBI works to raise public awareness and inform industry of the threats they face, through outreach activities.

As the lead agency investigating corporate fraud, the FBI focuses its efforts on cases that involve accounting schemes and self-dealing by

corporate executives, as well as obstruction of justice (activities designed to conceal this type of criminal conduct).

The FBI's corporate fraud investigations primarily focus on:

False accounting and/or misrepresentations of financial conditions; Fraudulent trades designed to inflate profits or hide losses; Illicit transactions designed to escape regulatory oversight.

Money laundering is turning "dirty" money "clean" by making it look like money from crimes actually came from legitimate sources.

The FBI focuses its efforts on money laundering facilitation—targeting professional money launderers, key facilitators, gatekeepers, and complicit financial institutions, among others.

Criminals use a number of tools to launder money, including:

- Financial institutions
- International trade
- Precious metals
- Real estate
- Third party service providers
- Virtual currency

There are three steps in the money laundering process—placement, layering, and integration:

- Placement is the criminal entering money into the financial system.
- Layering is the most complex and often involves moving money internationally. Layering separates the criminal's money from the original source and creates a complex audit trail through a series of financial transactions. Integration occurs when the criminal's proceeds are returned to them from what appear to be legitimate sources.

The FBI regularly coordinates with other law enforcement agencies, international partners, and industry to detect and disrupt money laundering.

Health care fraud is not a victimless crime. It affects everyone—individuals and businesses alike—and causes tens of billions of dollars in losses each year. It can raise health insurance premiums, expose you to unnecessary medical procedures, and increase taxes.

Health care fraud can be committed by medical providers, patients, and others who intentionally deceive the health care system to receive unlawful benefits or payments. The FBI is the primary agency for

investigating health care fraud, for both federal and private insurance programs.

Financial institution fraud happens when criminals target banks, credit unions, and other financial institutions. Many schemes involve compromising customers' accounts or personal information. Embezzlement and misapplication of funds are two common financial institution fraud crimes in FBI investigations. Sometimes, fraud can be severe enough to cause the failure of a bank or credit union.

The FBI works with partners to investigate mortgage and financial institution fraud cases. The FBI participates in task forces that share intelligence, de-conflict cases, and create joint investigations.

### **References:**

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## **CURRENT APPROACH TO THE DIVISION OF POWER FOR EUROPEAN STANDARDS**

The contemporary approach to the division of power based on European standards represents a dynamic framework aimed at fostering effective governance structures across the diverse landscape of European