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AG STEVE MARSHALL REMINDS CONSUMERS OF MAY 31 DEADLINE TO MAKE CLAIMS IN WESTERN UNION CASE

(MONTGOMERY)—Attorney General Steve Marshall is reminding consumers of a May 31 deadline to make claims in a \$586 million settlement with Western Union. Eligible consumers who were deceived into sending payments to scammers using Western Union's wire transfer service may apply for compensation as the result of a multi-state settlement with the company in 2017.

At the time of the settlement, more than 7,624 complaints from Alabama consumers had been filed. A total amount of \$7,865,024 or more in refunds is expected to be returned to Alabama consumers. The individual amounts will depend upon the circumstances of each case.

Consumers may be eligible if they were a victim of a fraud-induced transfer using Western Union between January 1, 2004 and January 19, 2017.

Affected consumers who previously reported the fraudulent transactions should have received claim forms in the mail around late November or early December of 2017. The forms contain instructions explaining how consumers may file their claims to receive compensation.

Attorney General Marshall warned that there have been reports of scam emails about the Western Union settlement. **He stressed that consumers should ignore these scam email solicitations. You cannot apply for a refund via email. The only way to apply for a refund is to follow the steps given on the Western Union Remission or FTC websites as specified below, which are to apply by postal mail or through these websites themselves.**

Consumers who did not receive a claim form in the mail but believe they may have an eligible claim, may visit <http://www.westernunionremission.com> or FTC.gov/WU, or call 1-844-319-2124 for more information on how to file a claim. The settlement fund is being administered on behalf of the Department of Justice's Victim Asset Recovery Program and the claims process is being managed by Gilardi & Co.

Claims are to be filed directly through the above websites or by mail to United States v. The Western Union Company, P.O. Box 404027, Louisville, KY 40233-4027. Mailed forms must be postmarked on or before May 31, 2018, and electronic claims also must be filed by May 31. The claim form **does** require consumers to include their full social security number.

In addition to consumer compensation, the settlement also compelled Western Union to develop and put into action a comprehensive anti-fraud program designed to help detect and prevent incidents where consumers who have been the victims of fraud use Western Union to wire money to scam artists.

Consumers who have questions may contact Attorney General Marshall's Consumer Interest Division by calling 1-800-392-5658.

