Siam Legal International Explains Fraud Accusation Process in Thailand

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Bangkok, Thailand - August 27, 2026 -
Siam Legal International, a full-service law firm in Thailand, has published a new resource walking foreign nationals through what happens once a fraud accusation is made under Thai law, along with the steps available to protect their freedom, assets, and visa status.

Thai law defines fraud broadly, with the Criminal Code and the Computer Crime Act together covering a wide range of conduct. General fraud applies to deceiving someone out of money or property, while impersonation and public fraud carry penalties of up to five years, covering cases where someone poses as another person, targets a vulnerable victim, or deceives the public at large rather than a single individual. Employment fraud applies specifically when ten or more people are deceived out of wages, and fraud carried out through a computer, a fake investment platform, or a phishing scheme falls under the Computer Crime Act, where penalties climb considerably higher.

The fines attached to these offenses are often not the primary concern. The greater risks are prison time, a criminal record that can follow a person outside Thailand, and a separate civil suit in which an accuser can pursue the full amount in dispute. For foreign nationals, a conviction can also result in deportation, making an immediate response important from the moment police first get involved.

Kittisak Sriparesri, Attorney at Law at Siam Legal International, said the pace at which a fraud case can move often catches foreign nationals unprepared. "A single allegation is often enough to open an investigation, and by the time someone realizes how serious the matter is, their accounts may already be frozen and their movements already restricted," Sriparesri said.

Thai police can move quickly once a complaint is filed, restricting a person's movement, seizing documents, and in some cases searching a home or office without the lengthier process common in other jurisdictions. Bank accounts and property transfers can be frozen once an investigation begins, and a pending case can affect a person's visa status, since fraud proceedings often continue longer than a standard visa remains valid. Costly mistakes tend to happen early, particularly when someone speaks to police without legal representation or signs a document they do not fully understand.

Once legal counsel is involved, a clear sequence follows to protect a foreign national's position throughout the case. A lawyer should be present for every interview, since anything said during questioning can be used as evidence and a signed statement is difficult to withdraw later. Attention then turns to how assets are held, challenging seizure orders, and petitioning the court to release funds for essential expenses, alongside collecting contracts, correspondence, and witness accounts early rather than waiting until trial.

A fraud accusation frequently triggers a parallel civil suit, and a pending case can affect a visa expiring before the matter is resolved, making it necessary to manage the criminal case, civil case, and immigration status together rather than separately. Siam Legal International's newly released video, Siam Legal's fraud accusation in Thailand guide, covers this process in full, from how fraud is defined under Thai law to the steps available to protect a person's rights once an accusation is made.

Siam Legal International said the pattern it observes among foreign nationals facing fraud allegations in Thailand is consistent: the earlier legal representation becomes involved, the more options remain available to the accused.

Siam Legal International is a full-service law firm with more than 22 years of experience assisting foreign and local nationals in Thailand, with offices in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket, and Pattaya. The firm's practice spans criminal defense, litigation, and cybercrime cases, alongside visa planning, property transactions, and corporate and business law.
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Siam Legal International

American-managed Thailand law firm with 22+ years? experience. Experts in corporate setup, BOI, FBL, family & divorce, property, litigation, immigration, notary, wills, contracts & due diligence across Bangkok, Phuket, Pattaya & more.

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