

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

## FRAUD SCHEME WITH ABANDONED ASSETS OR UNCLAIMED ACCOUNTS

Attorney Natalia L. Zequeira Díaz, Commissioner of the Office of the Commissioner of Financial Institutions (hereinafter, the "OCFI"), warns all citizens about the possibility of scammers taking advantage of Puerto Ricans to deceptively profit through a fraudulent scheme concerning abandoned assets or unclaimed accounts.

Recently, a citizen contacted the OCIF indicating that he received a written communication, which informed him that his claim on unclaimed funds at the OCIF had been approved; but, in turn, as a condition for receiving these funds he had to pay a certain amount. Said communication showed, at the top, the logo of the OCFI, contained spelling errors and the signature of a former Commissioner which was different.

The OCFI has not authorized or sent such communication. The information contained in the aforementioned communication is totally false, it is a scam, and it is illegal. Such communication will be forwarded to the appropriate local and federal agencies; and the OCFI will initiate criminal action for serious and/or less serious crimes against the offender and against any person who is part of, instigates or cooperates in the commission of these acts, regardless of whether or not the person obtained personal economic gain.

We urge everyone to be very cautious about this type of fraudulent scheme that aims to scam citizens. It is advised not to respond to communications that may be suspicious or of which you are not sure of the origin. Any person who receives any type of communication such as the one described above must contact, among other corresponding authorities, the Puerto Rico Police Bureau.

San Juan, Puerto Rico, on May 24, 2024.

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