

NIBRS Tip of the Month

Wire Fraud

Definition: The use of an electric or electronic communications facility to intentionally transmit a false and/or deceptive message in furtherance of a fraudulent activity.

This classification applies to cases where telephone, teletype, computers, e-mail, text messages, etc., are used in the commission or furtherance of a fraud.

For example:

A group of university students who pay their tuition on-line received an e-mail that they could get a discount on tuition by following a link in the e-mail and submitting payment by a certain date. Several students believed the scam and submitted payment.

- ◇ After the police investigated, the e-mail was found to be from one individual.
- ◇ For NIBRS submission, this incident would be reported as one offense (Wire Fraud) with one offender and multiple victims; the location would be Cyberspace; the property type would be Money; property loss would be Stolen, and; the value would be the total amount of money taken.

