



FinCEN, along with the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service (DSS), has issued a notice to financial institutions urging them to be vigilant in identifying and reporting suspicious activity related to the use of counterfeit U.S. passport cards for identity theft and fraud schemes. This fraud occurs in person at financial institutions and involves an individual impersonating a victim using a counterfeit U.S. passport card containing the victim's actual information. DSS assesses that from 2018 to 2023, these schemes have resulted in \$10 million in actual losses and \$8 million in additional attempted losses, with over 4,000 victims in the United States.

The notice:

- (i) provides an overview of several typologies related to U.S. passport card fraud;
- (ii) highlights select technical, behavioral, and financial red flags to assist financial institutions in identifying and reporting suspicious activity; and
- (iii) reminds financial institutions of their reporting requirements under the Bank Secrecy Act (BSA).

FinCEN requests that financial institutions indicate a connection between the suspicious activity being reported and the activities highlighted in this notice by including the key term "FIN-2024-NTC1" in SAR field 2 (Filing Institution Note to FinCEN) and in the narrative.

You can read the notice [here](#).

