



Association of Racing Commissioners International

URGENT ALERT - CLAIMING SCAM

The ARCI and Member Commissions have received information about a multi-state fraud where individuals using different names have surfaced to persuade trainers to participate in the claiming of horses. Racing Commissions have taken steps to involve federal and state law enforcement agencies.

Based on information submitted it is believed that the scam has occurred or attempts have been made at the following racetracks:

Oaklawn
Santa Anita
Keeneland
Turfway
Belterra
Laurel
Thistledown
Mountaineer
Indiana Grand
Louisiana Downs
Finger Lakes

Based on reports the scam unfolds this way: A gentleman and a woman pose as new entrants to racing, making application as an owner. They contract with a trainer, to claim horses on their behalf.

They provide a cashier's check to the horsemen's bookkeeper, and persuade the trainer to remit a portion back to them.

The cashier's check is fraudulent. In some instances the printed phone number for the Bank noted on the front of the check is also fraudulent and part of the scam.

In some cases, individuals may be using the names of actual trainers in good standing that are being impersonated. Checks may be presented payable to the track by the trainer or others payable to the trainer directly,

Racetracks should be advised to have alerts posted at track Paymaster/ Horsemen Bookkeeper offices in both English and Spanish to alert trainers of this ongoing attempt to perpetrate financial crime. Remind everyone to never call the number printed on these checks, it is usually part of the scam.

In New York at Finger Lakes the man went by ZAKARIA TARABICHI; the woman by HELENE ISSA. At Finger Lakes, the cashier's check value was a purported \$60,000. The trainer remittance was \$9,900.

(For further details contact the appropriate racing commission directly.)