



Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation  
920 Colorado St.  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Phone: (800) 803-9202

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 10, 2023

Tela Mange

Public Information Officer

Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation

512.463.3208

## Financial Crimes Intelligence Center Recovers 396 Skimmers And Prevents \$48 Million In Monetary Losses In 2022



**AUSTIN** – In its first year, the Texas Financial Crimes Intelligence Center (FCIC) prevented \$48,493,324 in monetary losses due to fraud in Texas and recovered 396 credit card skimmers.

The FCIC, which coordinates law enforcement investigations into organized financial fraud, officially opened in Tyler in January 2022. The center – the first of its kind in the United States – was created by House Bill 2106 in the 87<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature and operates as a partnership between the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) and the Smith County District Attorney’s Office. The center’s total two-year budget is \$2,650,000.

Contact: Tela Mange | Public Information Officer | Texas Department of Licensing & Regulation

512-463-3208 | [tela.mange@tdlr.texas.gov](mailto:tela.mange@tdlr.texas.gov) | [media.inquiries@tdlr.texas.gov](mailto:media.inquiries@tdlr.texas.gov) | [www.tdlr.texas.gov](http://www.tdlr.texas.gov)

TDLR Customer Service | (512) 463-6599 | Toll-Free (in Texas) | (800) 803-9202 | Relay Texas-TDD: (800) 735-2989

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#)



Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation  
920 Colorado St.  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Phone: (800) 803-9202

“The FCIC’s performance in its first year is remarkable. The staff has shown the importance and value of having an intelligence center that concentrates specifically on financial crimes in Texas. As more law enforcement agencies and financial institutions partner with the FCIC, Texas businesses and residents will be safer,” said TDLR executive director Mike Arismendez Jr.

Beyond gas pump skimming, the FCIC has recorded an astronomical amount of fraud from other types of credit card skimming committed by foreign nationals including ATM and point-of-sale skimming that specifically targets state benefit cards.

#### 2022 FCIC Operational Results

Total amount of loss prevented or recovered	\$48,493,324
Multi-jurisdictional cases coordinated	91
Skimmers recovered by TDLR	396
Suspects identified	217
Intelligence products distributed to law enforcement	472
Intelligence products distributed to private industry	213
Credit cards recovered	1,629
Skimmers recovered with information provided by financial institutions	79

“The FCIC has put Texas at the forefront of financial crime investigation in the nation. It is the first of its kind and has already proven to be successful for law enforcement and all Texans. Their continued work will prevent millions of dollars in fraud, promote a safe environment for Texas banks and businesses, and deter those who would exploit others from coming to Texas,” said Smith County Criminal District Attorney Jacob Putman.

In 2022, FCIC investigators saw several significant changes in the ways that criminals approached gas pump card skimming.

- Several Texas-based criminal organizations have moved their skimming activities out of state so they could avoid Texas-specific laws related to skimmer devices as well as our coordinated law enforcement efforts.
- Some of the Texas-based criminal organizations began moving their operations to less-populated parts of the state to find pumps that might be less-protected.
- Many criminal groups now target high-flow diesel pumps to obtain fleet card numbers, which are preferred because they are typically less secure (no EMV chip), have significantly higher credit limits and don’t attract early attention when large amounts of fuel are purchased.

Contact: Tela Mange | Public Information Officer | Texas Department of Licensing & Regulation  
512-463-3208 | [tela.mange@tdlr.texas.gov](mailto:tela.mange@tdlr.texas.gov) | [media.inquiries@tdlr.texas.gov](mailto:media.inquiries@tdlr.texas.gov) | [www.tdlr.texas.gov](http://www.tdlr.texas.gov)  
TDLR Customer Service | (512) 463-6599 | Toll-Free (in Texas) | (800) 803-9202 | Relay Texas-TDD: (800) 735-2989  
Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#)



Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation  
920 Colorado St.  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Phone: (800) 803-9202

TDLR regulates motor fuel metering and quality and collects consumer complaints and merchant reports related to credit card skimmers. The Smith County DA has aggressively investigated and prosecuted criminals engaging in credit card fraud related to skimmers placed on gasoline pumps.

About TDLR

*TDLR provides regulatory oversight for a broad range of occupations, businesses, facilities, and equipment in Texas. The agency protects the health and safety of Texans by ensuring they are served by qualified, licensed professionals. Inspections of individuals, businesses, and equipment are done on a regular basis to safeguard the public. Currently, the agency regulates 37 business and occupational licensing programs with almost 1,000,000 licensees across the state.*

Visit TDLR's [website](#) for more information and resources. You can search the [TDLR licensee database](#), and also find [past violations](#) in which a final order was issued against companies or individuals. TDLR's Customer Service line is available anytime between 7 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 1-800-803-9202. TDLR representatives are fluent in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.

##