



## IMPERSONATION OF LEGAL PRACTITIONER – 23 MAY 2025

The Law Society of Singapore has been notified of an incident of impersonation which took place earlier this month.

### **Summary of the incident**

- (a) A scammer initiated contact with an individual (the “**Victim**”) who had provided their contact information on what appeared to be a law firm’s website (“[www.xinzelegal.com](http://www.xinzelegal.com)”). The scammer corresponded with the Victim via WhatsApp and used a photograph of a legal practitioner as a profile picture.
- (b) The Victim was informed that the law firm’s customer service team had arranged for a discussion and that the firm offered online legal advice for cases of online fraud. The Victim was also informed that fees would only be charged upon successful recovery of any monetary losses incurred.
- (c) The Victim disclosed that they had previously invested a sum of money in a platform to set up an online shop. When the Victim attempted to close the shop, the platform demanded an additional sum of money to meet “credit score requirements” before allowing the withdrawal of funds.
- (d) The scammer informed the Victim that the platform was fraudulent, advised against further transactions with the platform, and asked for the Victim’s chat and transaction records with the platform.
- (e) When the Victim asked to see a name card, the scammer provided the Victim with a digitally altered name card featuring the following particulars:
  - (i) a logo belonging to a Singapore law practice;
  - (ii) the legal practitioner’s name;
  - (iii) an office address; and
  - (iv) a WhatsApp QR code, e-mail address, and phone number.
- (f) The impersonation of the legal practitioner came to light when the Victim called the legal practitioner’s direct office line.
- (g) A police report on the incident has been lodged by the legal practitioner’s firm.

### **Risk Management Tips**

- Please remind your friends, colleagues, and clients to perform direct verification checks with you and/or your law firm, should they receive any correspondence (e.g. WhatsApp messages) purporting to be from you, especially if no prior contact has been made.
- As stated in this [police advisory on fund recovery services scams](#), members of the public can check if a law firm in Singapore is registered with the Legal Services Regulatory Authority (“**LSRA**”) using the LSRA’s search function at - <https://eservices.mlaw.gov.sg/lra/search-lawyer-or-law-firm/>.