

# What is the Penalty for Wire or Mail Fraud?

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Author: [Andrew Stine](#)

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[Fraud](#) is a criminal act and form of intentional deception perpetrated for gaining profit or personal gain. There are several different kinds of fraud and so Florida legislature has responded with a new act. The Florida Communications Fraud Act is a consolidation of former fraud statutes that considers it to be a crime to defraud another individual through mail, internet, fax, phone, or any form of communication.

## Florida Fraud in Boston

According to the Associated Press, four Florida men have been indicted in Boston in a \$3 million scheme in which they used application packages nearly identical to a free federal application to scam struggling homeowners out of hundreds of dollars at a time.

The men arrested were 42-year-old Christopher Godfrey of Delray Beach, 40-year-old Dennis Fischer of Highland Beach, 51-year-old Vernell Burris Jr. of Boynton Beach and 34-year-old Brian Kelly of Boca Raton.

According to the Associated Press, "The indictment alleged their company, Home Owners Protection Economics Inc., (HOPE), virtually guaranteed clients a federally-funded home loan modification and charged thousands of customers a \$400 to \$900 upfront fee."

The indictment also alleged that many of the applications were denied. The men face charges including nine counts each of wire and mail fraud.

## Florida Communications Fraud Act

According to [Florida Statute 817.034](#), any person who engages in a scheme to defraud and obtains property thereby (property meaning anything of value) is guilty of organized fraud. If the amount of property obtained has an aggregate value of \$50,000 or more, the defendant is guilty of a first-degree felony. A first-degree felony can result in up to 30 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine plus restitution.

## Fraud Criminal Defense

If you have been accused of scheming to defraud or of committing any type of [fraud](#), whether it's mail fraud, mortgage fraud, or wire fraud, you are still entitled to a fair trial. A [criminal defense lawyer](#) will conduct his own investigation into your case and will aggressively fight to protect your rights during your case. A [criminal defense lawyer](#) will most likely advise you to pay restitution which usually results in the prosecution backing down so your sentence will be mitigated significantly.

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