



The Cybercrime Section is a team of professional prosecutors, investigators, auditors, analysts, and paralegals. The unit investigates and prosecutes technology-related crimes in California, including unauthorized intrusions, internet fraud, scams or confidence schemes committed by means of electronic media, money laundering via cryptocurrency or electronic transfer, organized retail crimes involving significant digital evidence, cyberstalking, and cyber-extortion or cyber-exploitation.

The Cybercrime Section also develops and provides training for judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers and the public on the importance of strong information-security practices and evolving technology-related crime issues.

High Technology Theft Apprehension and Prosecution (HTTAP) Program

The California High Technology Crimes Task Force strategy was created in 1998 through Senate Bill 1734, to help combat computer-related crimes such as network intrusions, computer hacking, counterfeiting and piracy, theft of trade secrets, theft of high tech related equipment, and telecommunications fraud.

This legislation established the High Technology Theft Apprehension and Prosecution (HTTAP) Program which is now managed through the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA). The HTTAP Program includes five regional Task Forces covering 29 counties and encompassing a population of over 31 million. The program was expanded in 2001 to include an identity theft component. The mission of the HTTAP Program is the investigation, apprehension, and prosecution of high technology crimes and to combat identity theft. High technology crimes (or cybercrimes) are generally defined as any type of illegal activity that makes use of the internet, a private or public network, or an in-house computer system.

The Cybercrime Section provides investigative and prosecutorial support to the five California regional high-tech task forces funded through the High Technology Theft Apprehension and Prosecution (HTTAP) Program Trust Fund, as well as those to those rural counties that are not represented by an HTTAP-funded task force (pursuant to Penal Code section 13848).

The HTTAP Task Forces partner with the private industry to help companies prevent, detect, and respond to computer-related crimes. The Task Force's personnel are highly trained professionals who also draw upon the expertise of private industry, academia, and government IT specialists to serve the corporate and individual citizens of California.

Investigations & Prosecutions Guidelines

High technology crimes are those crimes in which technology is used as an instrumentality in committing or is the target of a crime; examples include computer intrusions, internet fraud, scams or white-collar crimes committed by means of electronic media, money laundering via cryptocurrency or electronic transfer, organized retail crimes involving significant digital evidence, cyberstalking, cyberextortion or cyber-exploitation.

Pursuant to the provisions of Penal Code section 13848, the Cybercrime Section:

- Provides investigative and prosecutorial support to the five California regional high-tech task forces funded through the High Technology Theft Apprehension and Prosecution (HTTAP) Program Trust Fund;
- Provides investigative, legal, and prosecutorial support for technology crime investigations to those rural counties that are not represented by an HTTAP-funded task force;
- Provides coordination for out-of-state technology-crime investigation requests;
- Provides support for technology crime investigations that are initiated by other state agencies;
- Provides legal support for state-operated digital forensic laboratories; and



- Develops and provides training for judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers and the public on the importance of strong information-security practices and evolving technology-related crime issues.

If you determine during an investigation that your case potentially appears to fall within any of the guidelines noted above, please contact the Cybercrime Section of the Office of the California Attorney General by filing out our consumer complaint form to discuss whether the case might be appropriate for investigative assistance or prosecution by the Cybercrime Section.

How Do I File a Consumer Complaint?

Submit Your Consumer Complaint Using This Online Form: <https://oag.ca.gov/contact/consumer-complaint-against-business-or-company>



**Submit Your
Complaint Online**