



BANCO DE MÉXICO®

HOW TO REPORT CURRENCY COUNTERFEITING CRIMES

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HOW TO REPORT CURRENCY COUNTERFEITING CRIMES

Currency counterfeiting

The counterfeiting and altering of coins and banknotes jeopardizes one of the essential characteristics of a healthy economy: certainty. How can we have trust in a currency that may have no value? This has a direct impact on Mexican families' income.

The issue of Mexican coins and banknotes corresponds exclusively to Banco de México; therefore, any manufacturing, storage, distribution, and/or introduction to the country of any object with images similar to those included in domestic and foreign banknotes and coins, and intended to mislead the public, is considered a federal crime. Those that commit it are subject to up to 12 years imprisonment.

In Mexico, federal crimes are defined as prohibited practices penalized by federal criminal laws that affect the fundamental values of Mexican society, public goods, and Mexico's national patrimony and national security.

The Attorney General's Office (before Attorney General of the Republic) is entitled to pursue and punish federal crimes and is in charge of following-up all the reports related to currency counterfeiting and/or alteration.

When a counterfeiting or alteration crime is committed?

- By manufacturing, storing, distributing, or introducing to national territory any document or piece that includes images or other elements used in circulating coins and banknotes to deliberately deceive the public.
- When counterfeited currency¹ is knowingly used.
- When currency is marked to disseminate political, religious, or commercial messages aimed to the public.
- When machines, equipment, and/or tools designed exclusively for the manufacturing of currency are used without the authority's permission.
- When pieces are formed using parts from different banknotes.
- When the gold, silver, platinum, or palladium content in legal tender pieces is reduced.

¹ Currency: metal piece or banknote used as monetary signs and legal tender.

How can we help prevent committing these crimes?

It is important to know the security features of domestic banknotes and coins, to check always all the coins and banknotes that we receive, and to report to the authorities all cases of possible currency counterfeiting.

Any person aware of a likely illicit act is obliged to report it immediately. The report can be filed by any means and can be anonymous. If the report is submitted in writing, it should include²:

- a) Identification and address of the denouncer (except in the case of anonymous reports);
- b) Detailed description of the illicit act reported;
- c) Indications as to who committed the crime;
- d) Indications as to the persons that witnessed or were informed about the illicit act;
- e) Any other information related to the illicit act and that the denouncer is unequivocally aware of.

The Attorney General's Office (before Attorney General of the Republic) offers the services of CEDAC (Reporting and Citizen Service Center) where any person can file a report, including anonymous reports³, at the phone number 800-0085-400 or send an email to atencionfgr@fgr.org.mx. The report can also be filed electronically at <https://fgr.org.mx/swb/FEMDH/CEDAC>. An anonymous report can also be made at the 088 phone number, the Federal Police Public Attention Call Center.

Finally, the recommendation is to avoid engaging in the common practice of putting in circulation pieces that do not look authentic. Keep in mind that circulating counterfeit pieces is a federal crime. If you receive a piece of doubtful authenticity, we recommend taking it to any bank branch (even if you are not a client) and request that it is sent to Banco de México to be analyzed⁴.

² The report in writing can be done without a specific format, making sure, as far as possible, that all contents/headings in article 223 of Mexico's National Code of Criminal Procedures (Código Nacional de Procedimientos Penales) are covered. If one of the contents/headings is not covered, it is not an impediment to submit it.

³ As for anonymous reports, the CEDAC staff is fully trained to receive calls and file the report, to provide reassurance to the denouncer, and to request all necessary information to complete the report.

⁴ This is a free service.



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