Interaction with the criminal process

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Victims of crypto fraud in Singapore almost always report to the police. The Commercial Affairs Department has powers under the Criminal Procedure Code 2010 to seize property suspected of being connected to an offence, including balances in exchange accounts.[1] A criminal seizure protects the assets but does not return them. Return requires either a disposal inquiry at the end of the criminal process or a civil judgment that the prosecuting authority is willing to honour. The two processes can conflict. A civil claimant with a proprietary injunction and a police seizure over the same account must co-ordinate with the Attorney-General's Chambers, which will generally not oppose release to a claimant who has established title. Part N, Chapter III treats the interplay in detail.

Notes

1. Criminal Procedure Code 2010, s 35 (powers of seizure). Part N, Chapter II describes the agencies and their practice. ↩

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