

NCUA LETTER TO CREDIT UNIONS

**NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION
1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314**

DATE: March 2004 LETTER NO.: 04-CU-03
TO: Federally Insured Credit Unions
SUBJ: Suspicious Activity Reports
SUBJ: Suspicious Activity Report Form and Instructions

Dear Board of Directors:

The Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) Form has been revised to address provisions of the USA Patriot Act. Credit unions, who have not already done so, should take the necessary steps to implement the revised SAR.

The revised SAR contains three changes from the previous version:

- Part III - Includes the addition of two check boxes for terrorist financing and identity theft.
- Part V - Includes a statement listing the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) Web site for tips on SAR form preparation.
- SAR Instructions - The Safe Harbor provision has been updated to incorporate USA PATRIOT Act changes.

A copy of the revised SAR form is enclosed. An electronic copy is also available and can be found on the NCUA website, <http://www.ncua.gov>. A fill-in Adobe Acrobat version is on the FinCEN website at <http://www.fincen.gov/f9022-47-1a.pdf>.

To assist financial institutions with use of the new form, FinCEN is publishing a semi-annual report on SAR Activity. This report, which was published in February 2004 and can be viewed on the NCUA website, is discussed in Regulatory Alert, 04-RA-01, The Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) Activity Review – Trends, Tips & Issues, Issue 6, November 2003.

Should you have any questions about revisions to the SAR form or the Bank Secrecy Act, please do not hesitate to contact your NCUA Regional Office or State Supervisory Authority.

Sincerely,

/S/

Dennis Dollar
Chairman

Enclosure

Suspicious Activity Report

July 2003

Previous editions will not be accepted after December 31, 2003

**ALWAYS COMPLETE ENTIRE REPORT
(see instructions)**

1

FRB: FR 2230 OMB No. 7100-0212
FDIC: 6710/06 OMB No. 3064-0077
OCC: 8010-9,8010-1 OMB No. 1557-0180
OTS: 1601 OMB No. 1550-0003
NCUA: 2362 OMB No. 3133-0094
TREASURY: TD F 90-22.47 OMB No. 1506-0001

1 Check box below only if correcting a prior report.

☐ Corrects Prior Report (see instruction #3 under "How to Make a Report")

Part I Reporting Financial Institution Information

2 Name of Financial Institution			3 EIN		
4 Address of Financial Institution			5 Primary Federal Regulator a ☐ Federal Reserve d ☐ OCC b ☐ FDIC e ☐ OTS c ☐ NCUA		
6 City	7 State	8 Zip Code			
9 Address of Branch Office(s) where activity occurred ☐ Multiple Branches (include information in narrative, Part V)					
10 City	11 State	12 Zip Code	13 If institution closed, date closed MM / DD / YYYY		
14 Account number(s) affected, if any		Closed?		Closed?	
a		☐ Yes ☐ No		c ☐ Yes ☐ No	
b		☐ Yes ☐ No		d ☐ Yes ☐ No	

Part II Suspect Information

☐ Suspect Information Unavailable

15 Last Name or Name of Entity		16 First Name		17 Middle	
18 Address				19 SSN, EIN or TIN	
20 City	21 State	22 Zip Code	23 Country		
24 Phone Number - Residence (include area code) ()		25 Phone Number - Work (include area code) ()			
26 Occupation/Type of Business		27 Date of Birth MM / DD / YYYY		28 Admission/Confession? a ☐ Yes b ☐ No	
29 Forms of Identification for Suspect: a ☐ Driver's License/State ID Number ☐ Passport Issuing Authority ☐ Alien Registration ☐ Other					
30 Relationship to Financial Institution: a ☐ Accountant d ☐ Attorney g ☐ Customer j ☐ Officer b ☐ Agent e ☐ Borrower h ☐ Director k ☐ Shareholder c ☐ Appraiser f ☐ Broker i ☐ Employee l ☐ Other					
31 Is the relationship an insider relationship? If Yes specify: c ☐ Still employed at financial institution e ☐ Terminated d ☐ Suspended f ☐ Resigned		32 Date of Suspension, Termination, Resignation MM / DD / YYYY			

Part III Suspicious Activity Information**2**

33 Date or date range of suspicious activity From ____/____/____ To ____/____/____ MM DD YYYY MM DD YYYY		34 Total dollar amount involved in known or suspicious activity \$ _____ .00	
35 Summary characterization of suspicious activity: a ☐ Bank Secrecy Act/Structuring/ Money Laundering b ☐ Bribery/Gratuities c ☐ Check Fraud d ☐ Check Kiting e ☐ Commercial Loan Fraud s ☐ Other _____ (type of activity) f ☐ Computer Intrusion g ☐ Consumer Loan Fraud h ☐ Counterfeit Check i ☐ Counterfeit Credit/Debit Card j ☐ Counterfeit Instrument (other) k ☐ Credit Card Fraud l ☐ Debit Card Fraud m ☐ Defalcation/Embezzlement n ☐ False Statement o ☐ Misuse of Position or Self Dealing p ☐ Mortgage Loan Fraud q ☐ Mysterious Disappearance r ☐ Wire Transfer Fraud t ☐ Terrorist Financing u ☐ Identity Theft			
36 Amount of loss prior to recovery (if applicable) \$ _____ .00		37 Dollar amount of recovery (if applicable) \$ _____ .00	
39 Has the institution's bonding company been notified? a ☐ Yes b ☐ No		38 Has the suspicious activity had a material impact on, or otherwise affected, the financial soundness of the institution? a ☐ Yes b ☐ No	
40 Has any law enforcement agency already been advised by telephone, written communication, or otherwise? a ☐ DEA d ☐ Postal Inspection g ☐ Other Federal b ☐ FBI e ☐ Secret Service h ☐ State c ☐ IRS f ☐ U.S. Customs i ☐ Local j ☐ Agency Name (for g, h or i) _____			
41 Name of person(s) contacted at Law Enforcement Agency		42 Phone Number (include area code) ()	
43 Name of person(s) contacted at Law Enforcement Agency		44 Phone Number (include area code) ()	
Part IV Contact for Assistance			
45 Last Name		46 First Name	
		47 Middle	
48 Title/Occupation		49 Phone Number (include area code) ()	
		50 Date Prepared ____/____/____ MM DD YYYY	
51 Agency (if not filed by financial institution)			

Explanation/description of known or suspected violation of law or suspicious activity.

This section of the report is **critical**. The care with which it is written may make the difference in whether or not the described conduct and its possible criminal nature are clearly understood. Provide below a chronological and **complete** account of the possible violation of law, including what is unusual, irregular or suspicious about the transaction, using the following checklist as you prepare your account. **If necessary, continue the narrative on a duplicate of this page.**

- a **Describe** supporting documentation and retain for 5 years.
- b **Explain** who benefited, financially or otherwise, from the transaction, how much, and how.
- c **Retain** any confession, admission, or explanation of the transaction provided by the suspect and indicate to whom and when it was given.
- d **Retain** any confession, admission, or explanation of the transaction provided by any other person and indicate to whom and when it was given.
- e **Retain** any evidence of cover-up or evidence of an attempt to deceive federal or state examiners or others.

- f **Indicate** where the possible violation took place (e.g., main office, branch, other).
- g **Indicate** whether the possible violation is an isolated incident or relates to other transactions.
- h **Indicate** whether there is any related litigation; if so, specify.
- i **Recommend** any further investigation that might assist law enforcement authorities.
- j **Indicate** whether any information has been excluded from this report; if so, why?
- k If you are correcting a previously filed report, describe the changes that are being made.

For Bank Secrecy Act/Structuring/Money Laundering reports, include the following additional information:

- l **Indicate** whether currency and/or monetary instruments were involved. If so, provide the amount and/or description of the instrument (for example, bank draft, letter of credit, domestic or international money order, stocks, bonds, traveler's checks, wire transfers sent or received, cash, etc.).
- m **Indicate** any account number that may be involved or affected.

Tips on SAR Form preparation and filing are available in the SAR Activity Review at www.fincen.gov/pub_reports.html

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice: The purpose of this form is to provide an effective and consistent means for financial institutions to notify appropriate law enforcement agencies of known or suspected criminal conduct or suspicious activities that take place at or were perpetrated against financial institutions. This report is required by law, pursuant to authority contained in the following statutes. Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System: 12 U.S.C. 324, 334, 611a, 1844(b) and (c), 3105(c) (2) and 3106(a). Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation: 12 U.S.C. 93a, 1818, 1881-84, 3401-22. Office of the Comptroller of the Currency: 12 U.S.C. 93a, 1818, 1881-84, 3401-22. Office of Thrift Supervision: 12 U.S.C. 1463 and 1464. National Credit Union Administration: 12 U.S.C. 1766(a), 1786(q). Financial Crimes Enforcement Network: 31 U.S.C. 5318(g). Information collected on this report is confidential (5 U.S.C. 552(b)(7) and 552a(k)(2), and 31 U.S.C. 5318(g)). The Federal financial institutions' regulatory agencies and the U.S. Departments of Justice and Treasury may use and share the information. Public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this information collection is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, and includes time to gather and maintain data in the required report, review the instructions, and complete the information collection. Send comments regarding this burden estimate, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project, Washington, DC 20503 and, depending on your primary Federal regulatory agency, to Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC 20551; or Assistant Executive Secretary, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Washington, DC 20429; or Legislative and Regulatory Analysis Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Washington, DC 20219; or Office of Thrift Supervision, Enforcement Office, Washington, DC 20552; or National Credit Union Administration, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; or Office of the Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Department of the Treasury, 2070 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna, VA 22182. The agencies may not conduct or sponsor, and an organization (or a person) is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Suspicious Activity Report Instructions

Safe Harbor Federal law (31 U.S.C. 5318(g)(3)) provides complete protection from civil liability for all reports of suspicious transactions made to appropriate authorities, including supporting documentation, regardless of whether such reports are filed pursuant to this report's instructions or are filed on a voluntary basis. Specifically, the law provides that a financial institution, and its directors, officers, employees and agents, that make a disclosure of any possible violation of law or regulation, including in connection with the preparation of suspicious activity reports, "shall not be liable to any person under any law or regulation of the United States, any constitution, law, or regulation of any State or political subdivision of any State, or under any contract or other legally enforceable agreement (including any arbitration agreement), for such disclosure or for any failure to provide notice of such disclosure to the person who is the subject of such disclosure or any other person identified in the disclosure".

Notification Prohibited Federal law (31 U.S.C. 5318(g)(2)) requires that a financial institution, and its directors, officers, employees and agents who, voluntarily or by means of a suspicious activity report, report suspected or known criminal violations or suspicious activities may not notify any person involved in the transaction that the transaction has been reported.

In situations involving violations requiring immediate attention, such as when a reportable violation is ongoing, the financial institution shall immediately notify, by telephone, appropriate law enforcement and financial institution supervisory authorities in addition to filing a timely suspicious activity report.

WHEN TO MAKE A REPORT:

1. All financial institutions operating in the United States, including insured banks, savings associations, savings association service corporations, credit unions, bank holding companies, nonbank subsidiaries of bank holding companies, Edge and Agreement corporations, and U.S. branches and agencies of foreign banks, are required to make this report following the discovery of:
 - a. **Insider abuse involving any amount.** Whenever the financial institution detects any known or suspected Federal criminal violation, or pattern of criminal violations, committed or attempted against the financial institution or involving a transaction or transactions conducted through the financial institution, where the financial institution believes that it was either an actual or potential victim of a criminal violation, or series of criminal violations, or that the financial institution was used to facilitate a criminal transaction, and the financial institution has a substantial basis for identifying one of its directors, officers, employees, agents or other institution-affiliated parties as having committed or aided in the commission of a criminal act regardless of the amount involved in the violation.
 - b. **Violations aggregating \$5,000 or more where a suspect can be identified.** Whenever the financial institution detects any known or suspected Federal criminal violation, or pattern of criminal violations, committed or attempted against the financial institution or involving a transaction or transactions conducted through the financial institution and involving or aggregating \$5,000 or more in funds or other assets, where the financial institution believes that it was either an actual or potential victim of a criminal violation, or series of criminal violations, or that the financial institution was used to facilitate a criminal transaction, and the financial institution has a substantial basis for identifying a possible suspect or group of suspects. If it is determined prior to filing this report that the identified suspect or group of suspects has used an "alias," then information regarding the true identity of the suspect or group of suspects, as well as alias identifiers, such as drivers' licenses or social security numbers, addresses and telephone numbers, must be reported.
 - c. **Violations aggregating \$25,000 or more regardless of a potential suspect.** Whenever the financial institution detects any known or suspected Federal criminal violation, or pattern of criminal violations, committed or attempted against the financial institution or involving a transaction or transactions conducted through the financial institution and involving or aggregating \$25,000 or more in funds or other assets, where the financial institution believes that it was either an actual or potential victim of a criminal violation, or series of criminal violations, or that the financial institution was used to facilitate a criminal transaction, even though there is no substantial basis for identifying a possible suspect or group of suspects.
 - d. **Transactions aggregating \$5,000 or more that involve potential money laundering or violations of the Bank Secrecy Act.** Any transaction (which for purposes of this subsection means a deposit, withdrawal, transfer between accounts, exchange of currency, loan, extension of credit, purchase or sale of any stock, bond, certificate of deposit, or other monetary instrument or investment security, or any other payment, transfer, or delivery by, through, or to a financial institution, by whatever means effected) conducted or attempted by, at

or through the financial institution and involving or aggregating \$5,000 or more in funds or other assets, if the financial institution knows, suspects, or has reason to suspect that:

- i. The transaction involves funds derived from illegal activities or is intended or conducted in order to hide or disguise funds or assets derived from illegal activities (including, without limitation, the ownership, nature, source, location, or control of such funds or assets) as part of a plan to violate or evade any law or regulation or to avoid any transaction reporting requirement under Federal law;
- ii. The transaction is designed to evade any regulations promulgated under the Bank Secrecy Act; or
- iii. The transaction has no business or apparent lawful purpose or is not the sort in which the particular customer would normally be expected to engage, and the financial institution knows of no reasonable explanation for the transaction after examining the available facts, including the background and possible purpose of the transaction.

The Bank Secrecy Act requires all financial institutions to file currency transaction reports (CTRs) in accordance with the Department of the Treasury's implementing regulations (31 CFR Part 103). These regulations require a financial institution to file a CTR whenever a currency transaction exceeds \$10,000. If a currency transaction exceeds \$10,000 and is suspicious, the institution must file both a CTR (reporting the currency transaction) and a suspicious activity report (reporting the suspicious or criminal aspects of the transaction). If a currency transaction equals or is below \$10,000 and is suspicious, the institution should only file a suspicious activity report.

2. **Computer Intrusion.** For purposes of this report, "computer intrusion" is defined as gaining access to a computer system of a financial institution to:

- a. Remove, steal, procure, or otherwise affect funds of the institution or the institution's customers;
- b. Remove, steal, procure or otherwise affect critical information of the institution including customer account information; or
- c. Damage, disable or otherwise affect critical systems of the institution.

For purposes of this reporting requirement, computer intrusion does not mean attempted intrusions of websites or other non-critical information systems of the institution that provide no access to institution or customer financial or other critical information.

3. A financial institution is required to file a suspicious activity report no later than 30 calendar days after the date of initial detection of facts that may constitute a basis for filing a suspicious activity report. If no suspect was identified on the date of detection of the incident requiring the filing, a financial institution may delay filing a suspicious activity report for an additional 30 calendar days to identify a suspect. In no case shall reporting be delayed more than 60 calendar days after the date of initial detection of a reportable transaction.
4. This suspicious activity report does not need to be filed for those robberies and burglaries that are reported to local authorities, or (except for savings associations and service corporations) for lost, missing, counterfeit, or stolen securities that are reported pursuant to the requirements of 17 CFR 240.17f-1.

HOW TO MAKE A REPORT:

1. Send each completed suspicious activity report to:

Detroit Computing Center, P.O. Box 33980, Detroit, MI 48232-0980

2. For items that do not apply or for which information is not available, leave blank.
3. If you are correcting a previously filed report, check the box at the top of the report (line 1). Complete the report in its entirety and include the corrected information in the applicable boxes. Then describe the changes that are being made in Part V (Description of Suspicious Activity), line k.
4. **Do not include any supporting documentation with the suspicious activity report.** Identify and retain a copy of the suspicious activity report and all original supporting documentation or business record equivalent for five (5) years from the date of the suspicious activity report. All supporting documentation must be made available to appropriate authorities upon request.
5. If more space is needed to report additional suspects, attach copies of page 1 to provide the additional information. If more space is needed to report additional branch addresses, include this information in the narrative, Part V.
6. Financial institutions are encouraged to provide copies of suspicious activity reports to state and local authorities, where appropriate.