

Banking and Finance Law Daily Wrap Up, CRIMES AND OFFENSES—State AGs probe WeChat about ‘facilitating money laundering tied to fentanyl trafficking’, (May 14, 2025)

Banking and Finance Law Daily Wrap Up

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By [Thomas G. Wolfe, J.D.](#)

Expressing their concerns in a joint letter to WeChat US, Inc. about its alleged role in facilitating fentanyl money laundering, several state AGs seek answers and request information from the company.

Along with state attorneys general from Colorado, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and South Carolina, North Carolina Attorney General Jeff Jackson has [spearheaded](#) a multistate, bipartisan effort targeting “Chinese-owned messaging and payment platform WeChat over its connection to money laundering and fentanyl trafficking in the United States.” In their joint letter to WeChat US, Inc., the six state AGs express their “serious concerns about WeChat’s role in facilitating one of the greatest current threats to our states and our people: fentanyl trafficking.”

North Carolina AG Jeff Jackson remarked, “Criminal organizations are actively using WeChat to move and conceal profits” from fentanyl trafficking. “We need clear answers from WeChat within the next 30 days about what specific actions they are taking to put a stop to the rampant money laundering that is occurring via their platform every day,” he asserted.

Backdrop. As conveyed by the North Carolina AG’s press release, WeChat “is one of the largest messaging platforms in the world, with over one billion users globally, including millions in the United States and thousands across North Carolina.” Reportedly, recent investigations and criminal cases “have identified WeChat as a significant facilitator in fentanyl-related money laundering.”

Additional letter highlights. According to the multistate coalition’s May 12, 2025, [letter](#), anyone who “knowingly or negligently facilitates the movement of illicit funds bears responsibility for the devastation caused by fentanyl trafficking. Failure to act on these findings would only deepen the crisis and allow criminal enterprises to continue exploiting financial platforms like WeChat with impunity.” Along these lines, the coalition expects WeChat “to engage with the highest degree of responsibility” to address their concerns.

Moreover, based on reports thus far, the state attorneys general believe that WeChat’s involvement is not confined to “isolated incidents;” rather, there appears to be “a pattern of WeChat’s complicity in facilitating money laundering tied to fentanyl trafficking.”

Request for information. Pointing out that “knowingly facilitating, or aiding and abetting, money laundering is a criminal offense” in many states, the coalition’s letter demands additional information “so that our offices can assess WeChat’s compliance with our state laws.”

Accordingly, the state AGs request that, by June 11, 2025, WeChat provide a reply “that describes what steps, if any, WeChat has taken in response to the public reports, indictments, intelligence assessments, and other similar evidence of WeChat being used to facilitate money laundering by fentanyl traffickers, including any relevant terms of service, community guidelines, or other policies and procedures.” Further, in responding to the coalition’s request for information, WeChat is directed to “share any documents that may be relevant or that you reference in your response.”

Companies: WeChat US, Inc.

LitigationEnforcement: BankSecrecyAct ChecksElectronicTransfers ColoradoNews CrimesOffenses
EnforcementActions FinancialIntermediaries FinTech MississippiNews NewHampshireNews NewJerseyNews
NorthCarolinaNews OversightInvestigations SouthCarolinaNews StateBankingLaws