



ERIK NASARENKO

VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

NEWS RELEASE



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Simi Valley Man Charged with Felonies in Alleged \$100,000 Elder Fraud Scheme

VENTURA, Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that William Bao Khoa Ly (DOB 02/06/00), of Simi Valley, has been charged with stealing nearly \$100,000 from an 89-year-old Thousand Oaks man whom he had befriended. Ly is charged with felony counts of theft from an elder or dependent adult, grand theft, and unauthorized use of personal identifying information. The charges include aggravating factors that the victim was particularly vulnerable, that the manner in which the crimes were carried out indicates planning, sophistication, and professionalism, and that Ly took advantage of a position of trust. Ly was arraigned on August 18, 2026, and pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Ly met the victim in June 2024 at a McDonald's restaurant in Thousand Oaks. Ly claimed that he was proficient with electronic devices and could assist the victim with technology. After befriending the victim, Ly began visiting him regularly, approximately two to three times a week. During those visits, Ly allegedly obtained the victim's cell phone PIN and used it to access the victim's bank and cryptocurrency accounts.

From approximately June 2024 through August 2025, Ly allegedly conducted approximately 91 transactions transferring money from the victim's bank account into cryptocurrency accounts that Ly owned or controlled. The total loss was approximately \$100,000. The victim's bank was able to recover more than \$50,000 once the fraud was detected.

"This case is a stark reminder that financial predators can use friendship and trust as a means to gain access to a person's finances," said Chief Investigator Scott Whitney. "We encourage everyone, especially those with vulnerable family members, to be cautious about who they allow access to their phones, passwords, PINs and financial accounts."

It is possible there may be additional victims who have not yet been identified. If you believe you may have been a victim or have information that could assist investigators, you are encouraged to contact Ventura County Sheriff's Office Senior Deputy Andrew Van Gundy at (805) 494-8231.

The case is being prosecuted by Senior Deputy District Attorney Dominic Kardum, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Elder Financial Fraud Unit. The investigation was conducted by the Ventura County Sheriff's Office East County Investigations Bureau Financial Crimes Unit with FBI assistance through the Ventura County Multi-Agency Fraud Working Group. The Fraud Working Group is a county-wide collaborative effort focused on investigating and prosecuting fraud, recovering stolen assets, and educating the public about fraud prevention. The group includes members from the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, FBI, Ventura County District Attorney's Office, Oxnard Police Department, Ventura Police Department, U.S. Secret Service, and Internal Revenue Service.

Ly is scheduled to be back in court for an early disposition conference on September 22, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 37 of the Ventura County Superior Court. He remains out of custody on \$50,000 bail.

Case: 2026020396

Court Number: 26CF100090

Defendant Information:

William Bao Khoa Ly (DOB 02/06/00)

Simi Valley

Charges:

- PC 368(d) – Theft from elder or dependent adult
- PC 487(a) – Grand theft
- PC 530.5(a) – Unauthorized use of personal identifying information

Special Allegations

- CRC 4.421(a)(3) – Victim was vulnerable
- CRC 4.421(a)(8) – The manner in which the crime was carried out indicates planning, sophistication, and professionalism
- CRC 4.421(a)(11) – The defendant took advantage of a position or trust

