

USAO OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION POSTED ON JANUARY 04, 2022

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
COURT CASE NUMBER: 1:21-CV-00592; NOTICE OF FORFEITURE ACTION**

Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853 and 18 U.S.C. § 981, the United States filed a verified Complaint for Forfeiture against the following property:

9.881 Bitcoins (21-ICE-001785) which was seized from Fernando Berrocal transfer of Bitcoin wallet to HSI facility holding account on March 25, 2021 at 25700 Interstate 45 N., Suite 200, located in Houston, TX

Any person claiming a legal interest in the Defendant Property must file a verified Claim with the court within 60 days from the first day of publication (December 18, 2021) of this Notice on this official government internet web site and an Answer to the complaint or motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure within 21 days thereafter. 18 U.S.C. § 983(h)(1) permits a court to impose a civil fine on anyone asserting an interest in property which the court determines was frivolous.

The verified Claim and Answer must be filed with the Clerk of the Court, 300 Willow Street, Room 104, Beaumont, TX 77701, and copies of each served upon Assistant United States Attorney Michael Lockhart, 550 Fannin St., Suite 1250, Beaumont, TX 77701, or default and forfeiture will be ordered. See, 18 U.S.C. § 983(a)(4)(A) and Rule G(5) of the Supplemental Rules for Admiralty or Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions.

The government may also consider granting petitions for remission or mitigation, which pardon all or part of the property from the forfeiture. A petition must include a description of your interest in the property supported by documentation; include any facts you believe justify the return of the property; and be signed under oath, subject to the penalty of perjury, or meet the requirements of an unsworn statement under penalty of perjury. See 28 U.S.C. Section 1746. For the regulations pertaining to remission or mitigation of the forfeiture, see 28 C.F.R. Sections 9.1 - 9.9. The criteria for remission of the forfeiture are found at 28 C.F.R. Section 9.5(a). The criteria for mitigation of the forfeiture are found at 28 C.F.R. Section 9.5(b). The petition need not be made in any particular form and may be filed online or in writing. You should file a petition not later than 11:59 PM EST 30 days after the date of final publication of this notice. See 28 C.F.R. Section 9.3(a). The <https://www.forfeiture.gov/FilingPetition.htm> website provides access to a standard petition form that may be mailed and the link to file a petition online. If you cannot find the desired assets online, you must file your petition in writing by sending it to Assistant United States Attorney Michael Lockhart, 550 Fannin St., Suite 1250, Beaumont, TX 77701. This website provides answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) about filing a petition. You may file both a verified claim with the court and a petition for remission or mitigation.