

# Beneficial Ownership

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Beneficial owner is a legal term where specific property rights in equity belong to a person even though legal title of the property belongs to another person.

# Beneficial Owner or the “Grey Mask Owner”



# > 25% Company Shares

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- This individual ultimately owns or controls more than 25% of a company's shares.
- An example of this is an individual who is involved in illicit activities such as: Tax Evasion, drugs, among other money laundering activities; will register a company in an upstanding citizen's name, in order to hide true ownership.
- This will allow for the true owner to launder funds through this company while reaping the reward.

# Property

There are multiple cases where properties are registered to individuals who are either minors, under-earned (in relation to assets acquired) or unemployed.

The real owner or beneficial owner is behind the scenes financing these assets and keeping as well as keeping a watch over them.

It is key to note that beneficial owners do not stay far from their assets.

# Motor Vehicles

Motor vehicles sometimes can be very lucrative for beneficial owners; as these vehicles can be bought and sold on your behalf. For example sometimes persons are observed posing on Instagram with multiple vehicles but verification checks revealed that none is registered to them.

Beneficial owner is normally at the center of it  
all but hard to trace



# Bank Accounts

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- This is my prime example of a beneficial owner, as I have worked on a case where a particular individual's bank account was used to facilitate transactions from fraudulent activities.
- The owner of the bank account was fully aware of the fraudulent activities but still allow his account to be used because of the gain received.

# Case Summary

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- A fraudulent company was set up by and female fraudster on social media that sells very expensive female items. These items attracted a lot of females who made purchases in large amounts paid over very large sums, but did not receive any goods.
- The monies were deposited in the account of the facilitator who indicated that the female fraudster did not have a bank account at the time she was carrying out the fraud.

# The Police and the Court

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- The matter was reported to the police and an investigation immediately ensued.
- Both persons were charged for fraud and trial on-going.
- The facilitator acted as if he wasn't aware but the court said "willful blindness" is no excuse.

# Expected Conviction

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I am definitely expecting a conviction so that the asset recovery process can be pursued.

# Conclusion

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Beneficial or grey mask owner will eventually be traced and charged.