



**State of Wisconsin**  
*Department of Financial Institutions*

---

Tony Evers, Governor

Kathy Blumenfeld, Secretary

**For Immediate Release: July 22, 2021**

## **Edward Matthes Sentenced for Stealing \$2.4 Million from Clients**

MADISON, Wis. – On May 21, 2021, former financial advisor Edward Matthes, age 51, of Milwaukee, Wis., was sentenced to 63 months in federal prison, followed by three years of supervised release, for stealing approximately \$2.4 million from at least 23 clients, many of whom are elderly. Under a plea agreement reached in November 2020 with the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, the district court ordered Matthes to pay approximately \$2,366,308 in restitution to victims.

The [Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions \(DFI\)](#) issued a summary order in May 2019 permanently barring Matthes from securities registration, revoking exemptions from registration, and ordering Matthes to cease and desist from offering and selling securities. Among other things, DFI's order arose from Matthes' actions in soliciting investors to invest in an investment that would provide annual interest of up to 5% for a term of five years. Matthes represented to prospective investors that this investment was being offered through a reputable financial firm and was safer than their current investments. Matthes created fictitious "Account Summary Forms" on firm letterhead, detailing false account information and a fake transaction history of their purported investment. In some instances, Matthes instructed his victims to transfer their investment funds in the form of checks made payable to Matthes. Rather than investing any money he received from his clients, Matthes deposited the checks into bank accounts he controlled.

According to the plea agreement, Matthes acknowledged that he was living beyond his means. Matthes admitted that he stole money in order to appear to be a successful business owner and community member. Matthes used stolen money for his personal benefit, including the purchase of a home, living expenses, vacations, child support obligations, antiques, vehicles, and other valuable items.

"Wisconsin investors should use caution when making payments to purchase securities," said DFI Secretary Kathy Blumenfeld. "It's a red flag when a financial advisor directs a customer to write a check made payable to the financial advisor. It's also a good idea to review your account statements on a regular basis for any suspicious transactions." To inquire about the registration status of your salesperson or the product recommended, investors may call DFI's Division of Securities at (608) 266-2139 or email [DFISecurities@dfi.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DFISecurities@dfi.wisconsin.gov) for more information.

###

Media Contact: [DFICommunications@dfi.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DFICommunications@dfi.wisconsin.gov)

---

*Office of the Secretary*

Mail: PO Box 8861 Madison, WI 53708-8861  
Courier: 4822 Madison Yards Way, Madison, WI 53705  
Voice: (608) 264-7800 Fax: (608) 261-4334 Web: [www.wdfi.org](http://www.wdfi.org)