



Advisory to Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professionals (DNFBPs)
COVID-19 Pandemic

The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) has been closely monitoring the developments regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and keeping abreast of the official information and guidance issued by the Government of Belize, Ministry of Health and World Health Organization. In line with their guidance, we have implemented, with immediate effect, the following measures to limit the spread of the virus:

- Increased sanitation of our office spaces for both our staff and visitors.
- Monitoring of all staff for associated symptoms of the virus. Any staff presenting with symptoms of respiratory illness is required to stay at home and follow the Ministry of Health's guidelines regarding isolation and testing.
- Self-isolation for staff who recently travelled to locations where the virus is known to be present.

The FIU has also prepared a COVID-19 Business Continuity Plan which is now in effect and will be updated accordingly. As a precautionary measure, the FIU has also implemented, with immediate effect, the following policies and procedures to continue to safely engage with DNFBPs and potential DNFBPs:

- The FIU is **only** accepting registration, renewal and money laundering compliance officer applications and copies of supporting documentation (including proof of payment of fees) via e-mail. Original application forms **only** should be forwarded to our offices via registered mail so far as is reasonably practicable.
- Payment of fees should be paid by direct deposit or online transfer to our Scotiabank Belize account number 9139027. A copy of the proof of payment should be forwarded to us via email.
- Assistance with application or compliance related queries will be conducted via telephone and or e-mail.
- The FIU will accept urgent visits on a case by case basis. Urgent visits are to be scheduled in advance with available Compliance Department Personnel.
- Completed FIU registration and renewal will be confirmed via e-mail. Certificates will be dispatched via registered mail so far as is reasonably practicable or pick up arranged when it is safe to do so.
- In the event it becomes necessary, DNFBPs should email fiu.belize@fiubelize.org to arrange setting up an account to submit suspicious transaction reports electronically.

We encourage DNFBPs to practice social distancing guidelines. If you, a staff member or close contact is displaying any of the symptoms associated with COVID-19 and have travelled to any of the restricted countries or an area where community infection and spread is present, we ask that you refrain from scheduling an urgent visit to the FIU's premises.

The following is our contact information:

1. Telephone – Call us at 223-2729/0596
2. Email – You can email us for queries and submit documents at compliance@fiubelize.org
For suspicious transaction reports email us at fiu.belize@fiubelize.org
3. Website- www.fiubelize.org

The FIU will provide necessary updates of changes as the need arises.

End.