

Whois Service

Occasionally you may go to a web site that looks valid, but then you may suspect that something is wrong. This document describes how to check into the website owner and report possible fraud.

My wife and I were booking a trip to the Hawaiian islands of Maui and Molokai and thought it would be fun to take a ferry from Maui to Molokai (rather than the usual puddle jumper airplane.) I Googled around and found the web page www.molokaiferry.com which seemed to be exactly what we were looking for.

When we called the number on the site, we got a message that the number was redirected (not a good sign) and we talked with a gentleman with a strong Indian accent. He asked for our credit card information and then said that he couldn't use that card because it was a "high transaction" card, and asked us for another credit card. At this point we got really suspicious and hung up.

After doing some more investigation, we found the following Visit Molokai web page: [Transportation – Getting To and Around Molokai – Molokai Hawaii Visitor Guide \(visitmolokai.com\)](http://visitmolokai.com) which shows that the ferry service had been terminated in 2016. We called our hotel and they confirmed that the ferry had been out of business for years.

Rather than take any chances, my wife called her credit card company cancelling that credit card and requesting a new replacement card. This prevented the fraudster from being able to use the credit card that we had given them over the phone.

I then used a Whois service to determine "who" was fraudulently representing themselves as the Molokai ferry service. There are several Whois service providers on the internet, I used: www.whois.com/whois/.

Simply go to www.whois.com/whois/ and type in the name of the website in question (molokaiferry.com in this case) and it will give you a wealth of information, some of which I've shown below:

Registrant Contact	
Organization:	Privacy service provided by Withheld for Privacy ehf
Street:	Kalkofnsvegur 2
City:	Reykjavik
State:	Capital Region
Postal Code:	101
Country:	IS
Phone:	+354.4212434
Email:	798b52aca517458285644eb3cf43bbab.protect@withheldforprivacy.com

Raw Whois Data	
Domain name:	molokaiferry.com
Registry Domain ID:	39154694_DOMAIN_COM-VRSN
Registrar WHOIS Server:	whois.namecheap.com
Registrar URL:	http://www.namecheap.com
Updated Date:	2021-10-16T11:55:46.00Z
Creation Date:	2000-10-30T19:48:58.00Z
Registrar Registration Expiration Date:	2022-10-30T18:48:58.00Z
Registrar:	NAMECHEAP INC
Registrar IANA ID:	1069
Registrar Abuse Contact Email:	abuse@namecheap.com
Registrar Abuse Contact Phone:	+1.9854014545
Reseller:	NAMECHEAP INC
Domain Status:	clientTransferProhibited https://icann.org/epp#clientTransferProhibi
Registry Registrant ID:	
Registrant Name:	Redacted for Privacy
Registrant Organization:	Privacy service provided by Withheld for Privacy ehf
Registrant Street:	Kalkofnsvegur 2
Registrant City:	Reykjavik
Registrant State/Province:	Capital Region

First of all, the fact that the Registrant Contact is in **Reykjavik Iceland** should be a warning sign that this is probably NOT a legitimate company operating a ferry in Hawaii!

You can then file a complaint with the DNS Registrar (using their “Abuse Contact Email” address – shown in the Raw Whois Data.) They will then open an investigation and if the site is fraudulent they will shut it down.

Here is a copy of the email that I sent.



From: me@symzbourg@ymail.com
To: abuse@namecheap.com
Subject: <http://www.molokaiferry.com/> - POSSIBLE FRAUD SITE

2:44 PM

Hello,

I would like to report the following site as being misleading and possibly fraudulent:

<http://www.molokaiferry.com/>

The site "appears" to be a ferry between Maui and Moloki islands in Hawaii - however, after contacting them, it appears to be a fraud.

We tried to book tickets on the ferry and the phone number listed was re-directed and we ended up talking to a gentleman with a strong Indian accent who seemed to be trying to gather identity theft information from us. We got suspicious and hung up.

After hanging up we searched some more and found that the Molokai ferry went out of business in 2016 (see: [Transportation – Getting To and Around Molokai – Molokai Hawaii Visitor Guide \(visitmolokai.com\)](#))

I found that the DNS entry for this site is registered through your company and hope that you can shut this fraudulent site down before other people get their identities stolen.

WHOIS INFORMATION

Domain Name: MOLOKAIFERRY.COM
Registry Domain ID: 39154694_DOMAIN_COM-VRSN
Registrar WHOIS Server: whois.namecheap.com
Registrar URL: <http://www.namecheap.com>
Updated Date: 2021-10-16T11:55:46Z
Creation Date: 2000-10-30T19:48:58Z
Registry Expiry Date: 2022-10-30T18:48:58Z
Registrar: NameCheap, Inc.

If I had reason to suspect this website upfront, I would have done this research BEFORE calling them and giving them personal information, but it seemed perfectly legitimate and reasonable that there would be a ferry between these two islands.