



# WIRE FRAUD ALERT



Internet fraud — the use of Internet services or software with Internet access to defraud victims — is on the rise in real estate transactions.

**THESE SOPHISTICATED CRIMINALS COULD:**

- **HACK INTO YOUR E-MAIL ACCOUNT** or the e-mail of others involved in your real estate transaction and may direct you to wire money to the hacker's account.
- **SEND FRAUDULENT E-MAILS** that appear to be from your real estate licensee, lender, or closing agent.
- **CALL YOU** claiming they have revised wiring instructions.

## **Buyers/Tenants and Sellers/Owners are advised to:**

- (1) Never wire funds without confirming the wiring instructions directly with the intended recipient.
- (2) Verify that the contact information for the wire transfer recipient is legitimate by calling a known phone number for the broker or closing agent. Do not rely on the information given to you in an e-mail communication.
- (3) Never send personal information through unsecured/unencrypted e-mail.

## **If you suspect wire fraud in your transaction:**

- (1) Immediately notify your bank, closing agent, and real estate licensee.
- (2) File a complaint online at the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) at <http://www.ic3.gov>.

The undersigned acknowledge receipt of this wire fraud alert and understand the importance of taking proactive measures to avoid being a victim of wire fraud in a real estate transaction.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

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