

FBI Recommended Self-Protection Strategies

Be Aware. Don't be a victim.



BUYERS AND SELLERS ARE TARGETS FOR FRAUD

Warning! Wire fraud is real and home buyers and sellers are one of the biggest targets.

Scams to divert funds via wire transfer are widespread. Home buyers and sellers are experiencing multiple attempts to divert their entire life savings every day and we want to make sure they do not fall prey to any scam. Fraudsters target home buyers via email to trick them into sending a wire for their down payment and closing costs to the fraudster's bank account, instead of the title company. The money is then siphoned out of the account and transferred out of the country.



SELF-PROTECTION STRATEGIES RECOMMENDED BY THE FBI:

1. Avoid free web-based e-mail accounts
2. Consider implementing two-factor authentication for e-mail accounts
3. Use complex passwords that employ a combination of mixed case, number, and symbols.
4. Be careful what you post to social media and company websites, especially job duties and descriptions, and out-of-office details.
5. Immediately report and delete unsolicited e-mail (spam) from unknown parties
6. Do not use the "Reply" option to respond to e-mails. Instead use the "Forward" option and either type in the correct e-mail or select from your established address book.
7. ALWAYS VERIFY wire instructions through a known, trusted phone number prior to sending the funds. DO NOT use the phone number provided in the e-mail communication.

