



WIRE FRAUD ALERT



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

3 **These sophisticated criminals could:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 Seller/Owner: _____ Buyer/Tenant: _____
21 Date Date

22
23 Seller/Owner: _____ Buyer/Tenant: _____
24 Date Date