



Help protect your money

Mortgage wire fraud

When approaching closing on a real estate purchase, it's critical to stay aware of scams.

Wire fraud schemes can trick homebuyers into sending down payment funds to fraudulent accounts. Fraudsters often spoof or co-opt email accounts for real estate agents or title companies and send fake wire transfer instructions. Once wired, these funds are nearly impossible to recover, especially if sent to an overseas account. Read below for important details.

Be aware of email red flags

- The requester sends a rush request, insisting that you wire the funds immediately
- Incorrect grammar or spelling
- Unusual bank name or non-local bank
- Sent at an unusual time of day
- Suspicious attachments or links
- Inconsistencies between the "Sender" name and "From" email address or domain name, or emails from a non-corporate email address (like Gmail or Yahoo)

Help protect yourself

- Discuss the closing process and money transfer protocols with your real estate or settlement agent
- When receiving email requests, verify the sender's email address with a known source, such as their website
- Never accept wire instructions via email in a format that is not secure or encrypted
- Never wire money to a title company without speaking to the title agent directly using a phone number you have on file. Don't use phone numbers from an email
- Beware of emails stating that wire instructions have changed, as they generally never do

If you suspect you may be a victim of fraud, contact your banker or call us at (800) 480-2265.

All loans are subject to application and credit approval, satisfactory appraisal and title insurance. Terms, conditions and loan programs are subject to change without notice. Other terms, conditions and restrictions may apply.

