



WIRE FRAUD ALERT

Wire Fraud is a crime occurring with increasing frequency. Criminals/hackers target real estate transactions knowing that funds will likely be wired thus creating an opportunity for criminal activity. A common scheme involves hacking into email accounts and intercepting and replacing wire instructions or sending “updated” wire instructions after initial instructions are sent. The hacker will pretend to be an agent or escrow officer. Hackers will often copy logos and personal information in an attempt to increase an email’s appearance of legitimacy. Emails from hackers will often request the immediate need for funds to be wired. A sense of urgency is created in hopes that funds will be sent without proper verifications. Funds sent to a fraudulent account may never be recovered.

Always confirm wire instructions by personally speaking with the intended recipient.

Do not use a telephone number contained in an email containing wire instructions to confirm those wire instructions. Track down a phone number for the business elsewhere. Do not rely upon information received in email communications even if the communication appears to be legitimate and from a recognized source. Never wire funds without double checking.

Do not trust emails seeking personal or financial information.

Never send personal information through unsecure email. Do not email bank account information. If you receive an email requesting personal or financial information or asking you to download something or click a link, call your escrow officer (again- at an independently verified number) to confirm the email request before you do anything.

I have read and reviewed this Wire Fraud Alert and understand the importance of confirming all wire instructions and requests for personal/financial information.

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____