



Real estate buyers and sellers are targets for wire fraud and many have lost hundreds of thousands of dollars because they failed to take two simple steps:



Obtain the phone number of your agent and your escrow officer at your first meeting;



Call the known phone number to speak directly with your real estate agent or escrow officer to confirm wire instructions PRIOR to wiring.

Real Estate Agen Name

Phone

Escrow Officer's Name

Phone

Call Before You Wire!

Beware of the following scam:

1. An email account is hacked (this could be real estate agents', escrow officers', or consumer's email.)
2. Hackers monitor the account, waiting for the time when consumer must wire funds. Real estate agent, escrow officer, and consumer have no knowledge they are being monitored.
3. Hacker, impersonating real estate agents or escrow officer, instruct consumer to wire funds immediately. The wire instructions are for an account controlled by the hacker. These instructions often create a sense of urgency and often explain that the real estate agent or escrow officer cannot be reached by phone so any follow-up must be by email. When consumer replies to this email, consumer's email is diverted to the hacker.
4. Consumer wires funds which are stolen by the hacker with little to no recourse for the consumer.

Never wire funds without first calling the known phone number for real estate agent or escrow officer and confirming the wire instructions. Do not rely upon email communications.