



Realtors®, real estate brokers, closing attorneys, buyers and sellers are targets for wire fraud and may have lost hundreds of thousands of dollars because they simply relied on the wire instructions received via email.

A fraudster will hack into an email account of a party to a real estate transaction to obtain information about upcoming transactions. After monitoring the account to determine the likely timing of a closing, the fraudster will send an email to the buyer purporting to be the closing attorney or another party to the transaction. The fraudulent email will contain new wire instructions or routing information and will request that the buyer send funds to a fraudulent account.

We are urging everyone to **INQUIRE BEFORE YOU WIRE** and to never rely solely on email communication.

INQUIRE BEFORE YOU WIRE

For the best in service, remember to always insist on



NEVER RELY on emails purporting to change wire instructions. Parties to a transaction rarely change wire instructions in the course of a transaction.

ALWAYS VERIFY wire instructions, specifically the ABA routing number and account number, by calling the party who sent the instructions to you. **DO NOT** use the phone number provided in the email containing the instructions. Use phone numbers you have called before or can otherwise verify. **DO NOT** send an email to verify as the email address may be incorrect or the email may be intercepted by the fraudster.

USE COMPLEX EMAIL PASSWORDS that employ a combination of mixed case, numbers, and symbols. Make your passwords greater than eight (8) characters. Also, change your password often and **DO NOT** reuse the same password for other online accounts.

USE MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION for email accounts.