



WIRE FRAUD NOTICE

© 2018 New Jersey REALTORS®

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM BECOMING A VICTIM OF WIRE FRAUD. Wire fraud has become very common. It typically involves a criminal hacker sending fraudulent wire transfer instructions in an email to an unsuspecting buyer/tenant or seller/landlord in a real estate transaction that appears as though it is from a trusted source, such as the victim's broker, attorney, appraiser, home inspector or title agent. The email may look exactly like other emails that the victim received in the past from such individuals, including having the same or a similar email address, accurate loan and other financial information, and the logo of one of those individuals. If the hacker is successful, the victim will follow the bogus instructions to wire money, such as deposit money or the payment of an invoice, to the hacker's account. Once this money has been wired, it may not be possible to recover it.

We strongly recommend that, **before** you wire funds to any party, including your own attorney, real estate broker or title agent, you **personally call** them to confirm the account number and other wire instructions. You only should call them at a number that you have obtained on your own (e.g., from the sales contract, the lease, their website, etc.) and should **not** use any phone number that is in any email - **even if the email appears to be from someone you know.**

If you have any reason to believe that your money was sent to a hacker, you must immediately contact your bank and your local office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who can work with other agencies to try to recover your money, to advise them where and when the money was sent. You also should promptly file a complaint with the Internet Crime Center at bec.ic3.gov.

Finally, since much of the information included in such fraudulent emails is obtained from email accounts that are not secure, we strongly recommend that you not provide any sensitive personal or financial information in an email or an attachment to an email. Whenever possible, such information, including Social Security numbers, bank account and credit card numbers and wiring instructions, should be sent by more secure means, such as by hand delivery, over the phone, or through secure mail or overnight services.

By signing below, you indicate that you have read and understand the contents of this Notice:

Seller/Landlord: **Date:** _____

Seller/Landlord: **Date:** _____

Buyer/Tenant: **Date:** _____

Buyer/Tenant: **Date:** _____

