

PROTECT Your Information



When you buy or sell a home, you'll be required to submit personal information to your lender, realtor and settlement/escrow agent. This information may include Social Security numbers, bank account numbers and credit and loan account numbers.

Unfortunately, would-be fraudsters sometimes attempt to steal personal information and money through real estate transactions.

Protect yourself and remember to:



Enable multi-factor authentication on your online email accounts such as Gmail, Yahoo, AOL, et cetera. A primary method used by fraudsters is to hack into the email accounts of parties involved in a transaction.



Always carefully examine the email address from which you receive updates on your transaction from your real estate agent, escrow officer or settlement agent to ensure it is correct. If an email seems suspicious, notify your real estate or settlement agent immediately.



Call your escrow officer or settlement agent immediately if you receive an email requesting to change the wiring instructions for your transaction.



Carefully review your personal information on your transaction paperwork to ensure it is correct.



Communicate or confirm any changes to the transaction with your real estate, escrow or settlement agent over the phone or in person.



Do not provide information about yourself or your transaction to any unknown or unnecessary parties.



Contact your settlement agent or real estate agent if you suspect your email address is being improperly used or if you do not receive funds in a timely fashion.