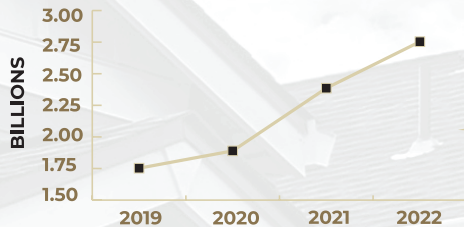


PROTECT YOUR MONEY WHEN BUYING A HOME



WIRE FRAUD SCHEMES ADVISORY



54%
increase
over 4 years

According to the FBI's Internet Crime Compliant Center (IC3.GOV) money lost to wire fraud increased from \$2.4 Billion in 2021 to \$2.75 Billion in 2022



Every day, hackers try to steal your money by emailing fake wire instructions. Criminals will use a similar email address and steal a logo and other info to make it look like the email came from your real estate agent or title company. **You can protect yourself and your money by following the steps below.**

BE VIGILANT



Call, don't email: Confirm your wiring instructions by phone using a known number before transferring funds. Don't use phone numbers or links from an email.

Be suspicious: It's uncommon for title companies to change wiring instructions and payment info by email.



PROTECT YOUR MONEY

Confirm everything: Ask your bank to confirm the name on the account before sending a wire.



Verify immediately: Within four to eight hours, call the title company or real estate agent to confirm they received your money.



WHAT TO DO IF YOU'VE BEEN TARGETED

IMMEDIATELY contact your bank: ask them to recall the wire. Tell them that the instructions were fraudulent. Using that term will increase the priority of their response.

Report the fraud to the FBI at IC3.gov, including the wire information. This will increase the chances of them tracking the money and you getting your money back.

Call your regional FBI office and local Law Enforcement Office (LEO).

Contact your escrow officer to report the fraud.

This is for informational purposes only and should not be considered legal advice.