

FRAUD PREVENTION

IMPORTANT CYBER ALERT: Cyber-Attacks, Fraud, & Phishing are on the Rise

It only takes one click to result in a breach.

Be vigilant and informed to protect against cyber-attacks and wire fraud.

Coronavirus-related phishing emails have increased 667% since the end of February*. In the midst of stress and distraction, please remain on alert for possible phishing emails and scams that may be sent based on the coronavirus (COVID-19) or related to your transaction(s).

Agents: Use only encrypted email or other secure transmissions to send commission wire information.

5 TIPS TO HELP AVOID EMAIL COMPROMISE & FRAUD:

- 1 **CALL AND CONFIRM** before taking any action. This is key not just regarding wire instructions, but for any email that you are not expecting or with a link.
- 2 **GATHER** contact info for ALL parties verbally or via printed material (not from email or email signatures)
- 3 **SAVE** these contacts in your database so that their name will show as the sender vs. an email address to help you 'catch' fraudulent email addresses that may be hackers.
- 4 **FORWARD** emails vs. replying to all. This practice will ensure that you enter the correct email addresses and removes any fraudulent email addresses that may be included (hackers).
- 5 **ENCRYPT** emails if you can. Chicago Title encrypts emails to protect our clients' information.

A FEW WAYS TO SPOT WHAT COULD BE A SCAM:

- Were you expecting the email?
- Does something look off to you? Trust your instincts and don't click until you confirm!
- Are you being asked to link to an official-looking site requesting sensitive data? Examine the site and reach out to a known contact to confirm authenticity.
- "Verify your account." These messages spoof real emails asking you to verify your account with a site or organization. Always question why you're being asked to verify. There is a good chance it's a scam.
- Do you recognize the sender's email address? Hover over the email address to see if the senders is masking his or her identity. Compare the email address carefully with the address you know is authentic.

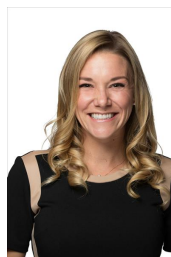
REMINDE CLIENTS: INQUIRE BEFORE YOU WIRE!

Thank you for your **Loyalty, Patience** and **Understanding** during these difficult times.

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CHICAGO TITLE®

Standing the Test of Time!

*As reported by Barracuda Networks 3/27/2020

Promotional Material designed, created, and produced by Chicago Title Regional Marketing Department in California.
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