



Beware of *Phishing* Scams

Real Estate is one of the top industries targeted by phishing scams. In short, a Phishing Scam is one where the criminal hacks an email account, impersonates someone else and steals money, personal information, or identities.

One of the most common scams involves redirecting wired funds before closing on a transaction. This scam damages all parties involved; buyer, seller, agents, lenders, attorneys, and more. While there are no guaranteed solutions, here are some tips for prevention and damage control:

Prevention

- Avoid sending sensitive information via email
- Verify the intended wire recipients and instructions immediately prior to authorizing/sending funds
- Beware of communication that is exclusively via email
- Clean out your email account on a regular basis
- Implement hard to guess passwords
- Set a code phrase for telephone contact concerning sensitive information

Damage Control

(If you believed you've been scammed)

- Contact the financial institution and request a recall of funds
- Report fraud to the FBI: www.ic3.gov
- Change usernames and passwords immediately
- Contact any other potentially affected parties



John L. Scott
REAL ESTATE
What's important is you.

Name
Office Name
Office: 215-555-5555
Cell: 610-555-5555
Email: jdoe@jlscott.com
Web: www.jdoe.com

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