

# FRAUD

## Wire Fraud Information

### What is Wire Fraud?

Criminals are targeting real estate transactions by gaining access to electronic communications or sending emails that appear to be from a real estate agent, a title company, a lender, or another trusted source.

These fraudulent emails seem legitimate and direct you to wire funds to a fraudulent account. Once you wire funds to the fraudulent account, your money is gone.

### The Process

If you receive any electronic wiring instructions, even if the communication appears to come from a legitimate source, verify the communication's authenticity prior to the transfer of funds in person or via phone call using a recognized phone number that is not found in the communications.

Do not send personal information, bank account numbers or other financial information via email or other unsecured electronic communication.

If you think you are being targeted in a wire fraud scam, immediately notify law enforcement, your lender, the title company, and your agent.

### Stay Protected

Willow Bend Title will send out wire information through Qualia, which is a secure portal. Earnest and option fees will be collected through a secure request from Earnest.

Upon receiving wiring instructions, it's best to Google a phone number associated and call to verify.

We will never use any electronic communications such as email, text messages, or social media messages to ask you to wire funds or provide personal information.



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