



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF SHASTA

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Beware of Craigslist Scams

The Shasta County District Attorney's Real Estate Fraud Unit has received numerous complaints concerning Craigslist Scams.

Overseas Scam Artists (Also known as Nigerian Scams) are using Craigslist to list Homes as being available for rent.

The Scam Artist will download pictures of a legitimate Home being sold on the market by a local real estate agent. The Scam Artist will change the wording on the listing to show the home being for rent at a rate that is too good to be true.

The prospective victim will see the rental listing on Craigslist and respond on the provided e-mail address.

The Scam Artist will answer the e-mail, advising he/she is overseas on some type of mission and directs you to send him/her the deposit by Western Union and he/she will send you the rental contract and key.

The victim sends the deposit and it is the last time the victim hears from the Scam Artist. The victim also loses the deposit sent.

If you should see the above described scam, contact the Real Estate Fraud Unit at the Shasta County District Attorney's Office at 245-6350. The Real Estate Fraud Unit will attempt to locate the Real Estate Agent who is also a victim and have the agent remove the add from Craigslist.

Rental Scam Prevention Tips:

If it looks too good to be true, it is probably not true.

Google the address and see if it is for sale. Call the provided listing agent to confirm if the home is a

rental.

When attempting to rent, conduct a face to face interview and tour of the rental unit

Write down the license plate of the person showing you the rental

Do not provide the deposit and first month rent until the rental contract is signed by you and the landlord.

Get a receipt on any money transfer.

Do not send money overseas.

Overseas Scam Artists are also using Craigslist and other sites to sale vehicles.

The Scam Artist will download pictures of a vehicle that he/she wants to list on Craigslist. The Scam Artist will list the vehicle on Craigslist well below the fair market value, if not several thousands dollars less.

The prospective victim will see the Craigslist add and respond on the provided e-mail address.

The Scam Artist will answer the e-mail advising he/she is overseas on some type of mission or he/she is in the military and will be deploying to Iraq/Afghanistan and the car is in another state. The Scam Artist will direct you to send him/her the money by Western Union and he will have the vehicle shipped to you at no cost.

The victim sends the money and it is the last time the victim hears from the Scam Artist. The victim loses the money sent.

Used Vehicle Scam Prevention Tips:

If it looks to good too be true, it is probably not true.

Do not buy without seeing the vehicle.

Verify the Registration Certificate/Pink Slip matches the license number and VIN

Verify the Registration Certificate/Pink Slip with the license of the person selling the vehicle to ensure he/she is the legal owner.

Get a receipt on any money transfer.

Do not send money overseas.