



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SHASTA

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NEW NIGERIAN RENTAL SCAM ON CRAIGSLIST

July 19, 2012
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The District Attorney's Real Estate Fraud Unit has received numerous complaints from local realtors, who have found their "For Sale Listings" appearing on Craigslist as being "for rent." The Craigslist ad will include house details and photographs the realtor has taken and placed on the Shasta Association of Realtors Multiple Listings Service (MLS) site.

This is a new Nigerian scam to hit North America and likely Europe and other parts of the world. The scammer will check the local MLS site and find a home that can be used for the scam. The scammer will download all of the photographs and details about the house and develop a Craigslist rental ad. The scammer will place one of his/her many out-of-the-United States email addresses on the ad and wait for a prospective victim to respond to the ad. Once the victim makes contact with the scammer, an email dialog will begin to scam the victim of deposit and the first month's rental money. Usually the scammer will indicate he is working out of state or out of the country.

Here is an example of actual emails from a scammer:

SCAM EMAIL #1: (Subject Line) "Lease Agreement Attached"

Hello "-----",

I have attached a copy of the lease agreement for you to sign and return back to me at your own convenient time, also let me know if you are ready to secure the house now for your move in immediately so i could mail the keys through UPS courier company to your address at (10957 Petit Ave Granada hills CA 91344)

BELOW IS MY WESTERN UNION PAYMENT INFORMATION TO ENABLE YOU SEND THE FIRST MONTH RENT AND SECURITY DEPOSIT TO SECURE THE HOUSE FOR YOUR MOVE IN ASAP:

Receiver Name: Arnold L Fertig
Address: 47 Sidcup Rd ,London SE12 8BL, United Kingdom
Text Question: God Is
Text Answer: Good
Amount:\$1300

Use the above information go to any western union outlet and make the payment email me the confirmation number as soon as you complete payment.

NOTE: PRINT OUT THE LEASE AGREEMENT, SIGN AND SEND BACK TO ME ATTACHED,

Thanks and God bless
Arnold L Fertig"

SCAM EMAIL #2:

Arnold L Fertig <trhfg@att.net> wrote:

Hello, Thanks for the email. Yes, the House is still available and will only be given out to the right person that will take very good care of the place and the facilities. Well i must let you know that the house has a lot of facilities like laundry facilities,air condition,internet and telephone access and car garage and other necessary facilities.I have really decided to give out the house as a result of my transfer to London UK,in my place of work. Rent per month is-----\$800Security Deposit-----\$500Total to move in is-----\$1300

RENT APPLICATION FORM

1)Your Full Name_____ 2)Current Address_____ 3)Phone Number (_____) 4)State_____ 5)City_____ 6) Zip_____ 7)Are you married_____ 8)How many people will be living in the house_____ 9)Do you have a pet_____ 10)Do you have a car_____ 11)Occupation_____ 12)How many people will be living in the house_____ 13)Email Address:_____ 14)How long lease are you looking for_____ 15)How soon do you intend moving in and are you ready to secure the house for your move in _____ I need to inform you as well that money is not the major reason why I am renting it out but want someone who can take care of it as if he/she owns it ,so let me know as soon as possible if you can take good care of it, so that we can discuss the rent further. 17330 Firma Ct Granada Hills CA

91344Bedroom: 2

Bathroom: 1.5 Sq. footage: 1000\$800

Utilities Included in the rent are water ,Gas and electricityPets allowed are DOGS and CATSDrive by the house immediately.

Thanks and God bless you amen.Arnold L Fertig"

SCAM EMAIL #3:

Hello "-----",

Glad to hear from you,i got your application form filled and everything is okay by me.

Myself and my wife are very exited and willing to let you move in our house as soon as possible and we have concluded in accepting payment for the first month payment which is \$800 including Utilities inside and a security deposit of \$500 total of \$1300 to move in as soon as you are ready.

The package containing the keys and documents will be delivered to your address (10957 Petit Ave Granada hills CA 91344) after your deposit is confirmed here.

Here are the contents of the document.

- 1) Entrance and the rooms Keys
- 2)Paper/Permanent house form
- 3)The house documents file.

Once again, we are giving you this on trust and do not disappoint us.

So I am with your information's here with me and i will like to know whether you are ready for the payment of this month Rent so that the keys and the document could be shipped to you as soon as possible so that you can possible occupy the house know. Your full address is needed because that is where i will send the keys and documents of the House.

Call me # +44 70457 53199

Thanks and God bless you,
Arnold L. Fertig"

Local realtors have been encouraged to screen Craigslist to see if their MLS listing appears as being for rent. If they see one of their listings, the realtor should immediately contact Craigslist and have the ad removed. Consumers can contact their local real estate office to confirm the prospective rental home is not for sale by a real estate office. Also, consumers should beware of wiring deposit and advance rental money. These types of transaction should be done face to face.