



RENTAL SCAM ALERT: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

PROTECTING PROPERTY OWNERS, REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS, AND CONSUMERS IN OKLAHOMA



WHAT IS THE RENTAL SCAM?

Scammers are impersonating property owners/landlords, creating fake ads copied from real property listings. They often ask for non-refundable deposits, and sometimes they will even offer a door code for you to view the property.



RED FLAGS TO WATCH FOR

- No application or background
- Request to send monies via untraceable methods
- Listing agent is unwilling to meet in person
- Urgency to rent
- Low rent
- Prepayment required



HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

1. **Visit in person** - Drive by the property to ensure legitimacy. Never pay for a place unseen.
2. **Verify listing** - Call the phone number on the yard sign. Check agent legitimacy via name and license number using our [Public Registry](#).
3. **Verify ownership** - Use county tax records to verify owner information.
4. **Compare rents** - Check rental rates of nearby properties to spot unusually low offers.
5. **Avoid upfront payments for rents, deposits or utilities via wire/gift card/crypto** - These are favorite tools of scammers. Real estate professionals will not ask for these types of payment.
6. **Inspect property condition** - Don't rely on photos; demand a walkthrough.
7. **Check disclosure and ownership** - Listings lack clear landlord/agent info. Make sure the property is on a legitimate website.



WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT FRAUD

- Do not proceed with the transaction.
- Contact your local law enforcement.
- Notify the [Oklahoma Attorney General's Consumer Protection Unit](#).

This guide is for general informational purposes only and is not a substitute for legal advice. The Oklahoma Real Estate Commission (OREC) does not offer legal representation. Consumers are encouraged to consult a qualified attorney for questions about their specific situation.



OKLAHOMA
Real Estate Commission