

Rental Listing Scam.

If it sounds too good to be true – it probably is.

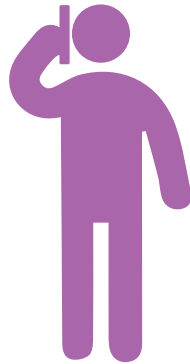
HOW DOES THE SCAM WORK?

A person portrays themselves to be a Real Estate agent and collects payment from an apartment seeker, without owning the listing or premise. The transaction can occur in person, by phone or email with original contact being made through online posting on third party websites, such as Craigslist. When apartment hunting, keep these helpful tips in mind.



Listing

The “Agent” will put an actual apartment that is available for rent, without owning the listing or knowing the owner/landlord and placing a classified ad on a third party website.



Contact

Contact is made via email or phone conversation.



Payment

The “Agent” will request a payment Western Union, Money Gram or Green Dot Money Pak prior to meeting or viewing apartment/premise.



Theft

The “Agent” will ask for you to submit an application with personal information listed, prior to viewing the apartment which puts you at high risk for identity theft.



Deliver

The “Agent” will claim he/she is unable to meet due to being out of the area, state or country, however, he/she has arranged for keys to be delivered to you. Upon receiving payment, the fraudulent party will deliver keys (false set) for apartment/premise at an agreed upon neutral location.

Prevention

- Do not give an advance payment, prior to viewing available listing.
- Do not wire money or use a Green Dot Money Pak as a form of payment.
- Do not complete application providing personal information prior to viewing available listing.
- Research listing “Agent” and address online or through the Better Business Bureau.
- NEVER complete an application without actually seeing the apartment/premise.
- If offer sounds too good to be true – it probably is.



Report It.

Immediately report a theft or suspicious activity to the NYPD by calling 911.

NYPD