



PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM CYBER **CRIME / SCAMS**

The real estate industry has recently learned of a fraud tactic being used against its customers involved in home purchases. The criminals involved in the fraud cases are using the compromised email accounts of Realtors, title company agents, and loan officers to have customers divert closing money to an account controlled by the criminals, as opposed to the legitimate loan holder's account.

1 Email

Never email financial information. Email is insecure and sensitive information should not be sent via email.

2 Attachments

It's not unusual to exchange emails with attachments during the closing process, but attachments are always a common way criminals will get malicious software onto your computer. Never be afraid to ask your agent about email attachments you were sent.

3 Website Security

If you are inputting sensitive information into a website be sure the website is legitimate. Look for the "https:" at the beginning of the web address (ex. <https://www.bankwebsite.com>). This will denote a secure connection to the site you are using.

WE ARE HERE FOR **YOU**.

We are working diligently with our own agents to make sure that we're doing everything possible to protect their accounts and information. However, we want to ensure you have the knowledge and information to protect yourself, as a consumer. If you suspect you fraudulent activity please contact your agent immediately.

A leader in Middle Georgia real estate since 1939.

www.Fickling.com

