

REAL ESTATE WIRE FRAUD

A Growing THREAT for Home BUYERS & SELLERS

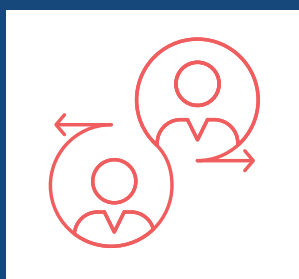


Real estate WIRE FRAUD is one of the FASTEST growing CYBER CRIMES in the United States

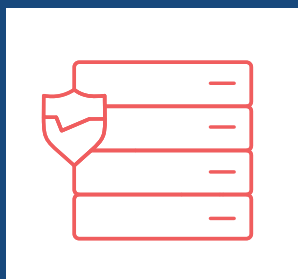
In 2019, the highest reported fraud in real estate was Business Email Compromise/Email Account Compromise (BEC/EAC)



In 2019, **11,677 people** were victims of wire fraud in the real estate and rental sector.



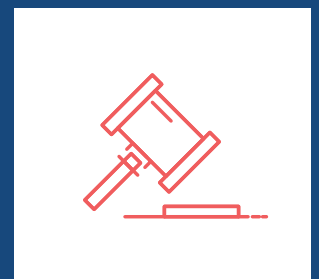
There were **\$221 million** in losses in 2019, which is an 48% increase over 2018.



Real estate and rental wire fraud is ranked **#5** out of more than 30 types of fraud tracked by the FBI's Internet Crime Compliant Center.



There was a **1,100% rise** in the number of BEC/EAC victims reporting the real estate transaction angle from 2015-2017.



From 2015-2017, there was a **200% rise** in the reported monetary loss victims participating at all levels of a real estate transaction.



In a real estate transaction, wire fraud is generally purported using one of these techniques:

- Business E-Mail Compromise (BEC)
- E-Mail Account Compromise (EAC)
- Phishing/Vishing/Smishing/Pharming
- Spoofing

RECOMMENDED Practices

- Educate buyers and staff about possible scams.
- Include a wire fraud notice in your email signature.
- Use a transaction management platform or secure email to communicate with clients.
- Never send wire instructions (or any personal or financial information) via e-mail.
- Be wary of last minute wire instruction changes.
- Verify wire instructions with a phone number independently obtained.
- Use smart email practices.



Sources

<https://www.nar.realtor/wire-fraud>
<https://www.ic3.gov/Media/Y2018/PSA180712>