

Protect Yourself Against Wire Scams

- Only wire money to people you know or recipients you have verified.
- Verify ALL wire requests that you receive by calling to confirm wire instructions when wiring money or funding an investment.
- Never wire money to a stranger who says they work for a government agency (like the IRS) or a well-known company (like Amazon).
- Wiring money is like sending cash - once it's gone, you probably cannot get it back.

You may be the target of a scam if the requestor:

- Sends you wire instructions via email (ex. Loan closing - always verify details by phone)
- Contacts you unexpectedly
- Claims there is an emergency and must pay immediately
- Has typing or grammatical errors
- Only accepts payment via wire, gift cards, or crypto currency
- Tells you to "keep it secret" or instructs you "how to answer questions at the bank"
- Makes an offer that sounds too good to be true
- Asks for your personal information
- There is little to no organization, structure, or standardized professional process
- Is unable to answer any requests for verification due to technology or distance

Known Common Wire Scams

Family Emergency

"Grandma, I'm in trouble - I need money fast."

Imposter

"I'm with the IRS, and you owe back taxes. If not paid immediately, a lawsuit will be filed against you." or, "This is Amazon and we need you to verify an iPhone purchase on your account."

Investment Opportunity

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity with a big payout!"

Romance / New Friend

"I want to meet you in person, but I can't afford to travel. Can you send me money?"

Amazon Scam

"Someone is attempting to buy a \$1,000 iPhone on your account. Call us back at 123-456-7890."

Overpay

"We've paid you too much, can you wire the extra \$500 back to us?"

Apartment Rental

"This low price is only available today. Wire over \$1,000 for the first month's rent and security deposit to lock in the low rate!"