IMPORTANT **WIRE FRAUD ALERT** FOR **HOME BUYERS**

Realtors®, Real Estate Brokers, Buyers and Sellers are targets for wire fraud and many have lost hundreds of thousands of dollars because they simply relied on the wire instructions received via email.

A hacker will break into a licensee's email account to obtain information about upcoming real estate transactions. After monitoring the account to determine the likely timing of a close, the hacker will send an email to the buyer, posing either as the escrow agent or as the licensee. The fraudulent email will contain new wiring instructions or routing information, and will request that the Buyer send funds accordingly.

Chicago Title is urging our clients to CALL BEFORE YOU WIRE and never rely upon email communication. Always follow these two simple steps:

ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU WIRE.

When in doubt, always call our office or your escrow officer.

STEP 1

Obtain the phone number of your Real Estate Broker, Realtor® and your Chicago Title Escrow Officer as soon as an escrow is opened. (Complete the information below and keep this flyer in your escrow folder.

STEP 2

Call the phone number you wrote down from step#1 above to speak directly with your Chicago Title Escrow Officer to confirm wire instructions PRIOR to wiring. If you receive alternative wiring instructions from Chicago Title, be suspicious as we rarely change our wiring instructions.

ESCROW#	
BROKER'S NAME/PHONE#	
REALTOR'S NAME/PHONE#	
ESCROW COMPANY	
ESCROW OFFICER'S NAME/PHONE#	