



## **BEWARE OF HOUSING SCAMS & PROTECT YOURSELF!**

**Always confirm the identity of the landlord, verify that the unit address is legitimate, and do not send any money until you have met with the landlord in person and you are ready to rent the unit and sign the lease.**

**Do not wire or send deposit or first month's rent money via an app.**

### **WHAT A HOUSING SCAM LOOKS LIKE:**

- They tell you to wire money.
- They want a security deposit or first month's rent before you have met or signed a lease.
- They ask for bank account or credit card information before you have even seen the unit.
- They say they're out of the country and cannot meet with you.
- They only communicate through email or text.
- The unit listing seems odd, such as: the rent is very low compared to other units; there are grammatical or spelling errors, or the information in the listing is very vague.
- There's no address listed for the unit.

### **WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOURSELF:**

- Screen the landlord: search for their name online, check public records, read reviews.
- Verify the property address: if the listing doesn't have the address, ask for and verify it by using Google Maps.
- Don't pay in cash or send money using an app or money wiring service.
- Do not pay a security deposit or first month's rent until you've signed a lease.
- Do not sign a lease until you've done a walk-through and inspect the unit.
- Do not give out your personal information (bank account and credit card information).
- Meet with the landlord in person.
- Beware of multiple listings: some scammers use the same unit photos but the address, utility, and landlord contact information is different.

### **IF YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE A VICTIM OF A SCAM:**

- Contact the local police department to file a report.
- Contact the website where the ad was posted to alert them of the fake listing.
- File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission by calling 1-877-FTC-HELP or using the [FTC Complaint Assistant](#).

**If you believe one of New Hampshire Housing's listings may be a scam, email [vacancies@nhhfa.org](mailto:vacancies@nhhfa.org)**

1.2023