



United Way of South Wood & Adams Counties

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT...

RENTAL SCAMS

How rental scams work

Scammers copy pictures and descriptions of real rental listings, but replace the contact information with their own. Other times, they create fake listings for places that don't actually exist.

Why?

The scammer takes payment for things like application fees, deposits, or first month's rent and disappear with your money.

Watch for Red Flags

If any of these are true, *it's probably a scam.*

- ❗ Pictures in the ad have an MLS watermark.
- ❗ A Google search shows ads for the same property, but with a different owner.
- ❗ The owner won't show you the property, or promises to only after payment.
- ❗ You're asked for wire transfer, cryptocurrency, apps like CashApp or Zelle, or gift cards.
- ❗ They're ready to make a deal without your background info.

Reporting Scams

If you experience a scam, or even spot one, report it to the Federal Trade Commission at ReportFraud.ftc.gov.

For information & help connecting to local resources, call United Way's 211.

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Get Connected. Get Help.™