



# Fraud Alert

## 8-19-15

### Coon Rapids Police Department

Recently, there have been many reports of fraudulent activity in Coon Rapids and in the metro. There are many different scams, which usually involve wiring money or buying gift cards and sending the numbers to someone. Never send anyone you don't know money. Several examples of recent scams are listed below.

Scammers, who appear to be working out of Nigeria, are manipulating real ads of homes for sale and changing the ad to appear as if it is a home for rent. Unsuspecting citizens are then filling out a rental application, getting "approved" and are then told to send money. The scammers say the keys will be in the mail, but the keys never arrive.

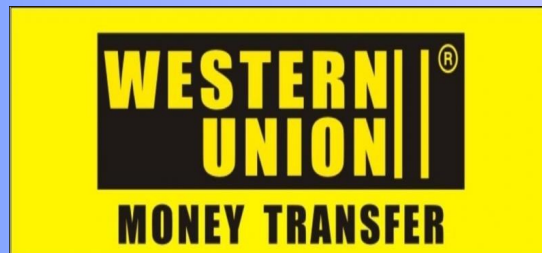
Scammers are also doing similar scams involving Craigslist. Recently, there was a real ad for an RV for sale. The criminals created their own fake ad from this original ad, and set up a fake ebay notice attached to it, which they said would act as a third party to protect the buyer and the seller. The victim wired the scammers money and never received the RV.

Citizens have also reported getting phone calls or emails from the "IRS" or the "Sheriff's Department." Neither of these government agencies will contact you by phone or email if you have an issue with your taxes or if you have a warrant out for your arrest. Also, if someone calls to tell you your grandchild or other relative is in jail in a foreign country, it is likely not true. This scam is also used often to rob people out of money. Check with other family members before sending any money to anyone claiming to be a relative or calling on behalf of one.

Perhaps the scariest way scammers are taking money from people is by tricking them into giving remote access to their computer. Once the hackers are inside, they demand money to release the computer. Often, the first payment will not be enough and they will demand more. They claim to have access to all of your personal data and bank accounts once inside your computer. Never give out personal information over the phone, including passwords.

Any time that you are asked to send money to someone you don't know, assume it is a scam. If you are still in doubt, call 763-427-1212 and ask for an officer to call you to help you make a determination.

**Don't fall prey to these scams! Don't give money to someone you don't know!**



**See Something?  
Say Something!  
Call 9-1-1 to report  
suspicious activity!**

