



State of Nevada Department of Business & Industry

Director's Office

555 East Washington Avenue, Suite 4900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Phone (702) 486-2750 | Fax (702) 486-2758
business.nv.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — March 13, 2009

CONTACT: Elisabeth Shurtleff, Public Information Officer

PHONE: (702) 486-2756 E-MAIL: eshurtleff@business.nv.gov

Want the keys? Don't wire the cash! **The Real Estate Division warns of property rental scam.**

Las Vegas – The Real Estate Division has learned of a property rental scam that fraudulently uses the name of the National Association of REALTORS®.

Rental property is being offered to prospective tenants under the guise that the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) is acting as an intermediary to receive deposits and then provide keys to the properties. The tenants are advised to wire money to NAR's supposed office in the United Kingdom. NAR is not acting in this capacity, and they have notified law enforcement officials of the scam.

“There are two tip-offs that this is a scam,” says Gail Anderson, Real Estate Division Administrator. *“First, any time you are asked to wire money, it's almost always a scam. The fact that you're sending the money overseas is your second clue that you should hold on to your cash.”*

If you have been a victim of this scam, file a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center at <http://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx/>.

Consumers are also encouraged to visit the Fight Fraud Website at <http://fightfraud.nv.gov/>. The site includes extensive tips on how to prevent several kinds of fraud and provides downloadable complaint forms to help you respond effectively if you become a victim. Visit it regularly for the latest fraud alerts.

###
