

## **SCAM WARNINGS**

**Be very careful when booking a room or renting from Craigslist, Facebook, or AirBNB.** Be aware that there are many scammers who give out false advertisements targeting those looking to rent. When potential victims contact the number on the ad, the person on the other end may sound legitimate and have all the right answers. They'll receive what looks like an official reply, complete with rental forms, photos, procedures and bank account numbers where the deposit needs to be wired into.

These ads can be very deceptive, and even though they are taken down as soon as they are spotted, it is an endless cycle. Please be aware. If you are not sure about a housing option you have found please contact your sponsor for assistance.

### **Tips:**

- If you send a personal check, only mail it to the physical address of a vacation rental company. Don't take the word of the person renting the house for their address, google it and make sure they are legitimate. Do not use cash. Paypal has refunded some of the victims their money in recent cases but this isn't always the case.
- If you suspect the potential transaction may be a scam, ask for a call back phone number, get their bank account number, email address and call local law enforcement.
- Use a rental company with a local address and a published phone number with a tried and true history
- Use a credit card that will protect you for the initial payment
- Oftentimes the phone number given has been reported. A quick google search may save you time and money.
- A phone number that is never answered is often a warning sign
- A common red flag is offering proof of ownership AFTER the payment has been made
- NEVER wire money anywhere including a legitimate bank account

IF IT SEEMS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT PROBABLY IS!