



PREVENTING HOUSING SCAMS



1) Look Up the Address Online

Often scammers will post apartment listings for units that don't exist. Do your research! Look the address up on Google and look at it through Google Maps street view.



2) Do Not Provide Any Money to the Landlord

Your landlord cannot ask for any deposits until your application has been approved. Typically, this is provided during the lease signing.



3) Always See the Apartment In Person

It is important that before signing a lease, you look at the apartment in person. This will allow you to make sure the ad is real and see the status of the unit. In situations where you are unable to visit the unit in person, see if someone you trust can go and take photos or ask the landlord to video call a walk through with you.



4) Be Aware of Duplicate Ads

Often scammers will post multiple fake ads with multiple different landlord names and contacts. If you see the same apartment being listed multiple times with different information, it is likely fake.





5) Know Your Rights as a Tenant

Before viewing a unit or connecting with landlords, research what your rights are as a tenant. This will allow you to naturally notice red flags through conversations with the landlord.



6) Read Reviews

Keep in mind people are more likely to post negative reviews than positive ones. Everyone has a different experience! But if you find a property with multiple reviews from different users, that can help you verify the listing.



7) Ask Questions About the Application Process

Keep in mind renting is a business to a landlord. Landlords will require basic information from you before allowing you to rent one of their units such as photo identification and proof of income. Many landlords even ask for criminal record checks and credit checks. If you are meeting with a landlord and they aren't requiring any of that information, it is likely a scam.



8) Ask Questions

If you have any questions about the posting, during the viewing, or during the application process, ask them! It is best to make a fully informed decision.