



# Fraud Alert!

**C.A.S.E.**

*Churches Against  
Senior Exploitation*

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## Beware of fake rental listings



### *Scammers troll vacation, residential ads*

Rental scams find their way into legitimate rental listing sites year-round, however, they blossom like flowers in the spring when people are looking for places to stay on vacation.

Sometimes, the con artist will hijack a real listing, change the price and some small details, while other times, he will create a phantom rental. Always though, he wants a down payment and first month's rent wired through a money transfer company or via a prepaid bank card. And often, he also asks for a completed application ripe with personal information that could lead to identity theft.

Keep yourself safe from fraud and look for red flags, including:

- A rush to do business immediately.
- Requirement of upfront payment sent to a distant location.
- A promise of keys to be sent after payment.



## If the clock is ticking .... Take your time!

- Don't be rushed into sending money.
- Do your homework first. Verify information on the property, such as: Is it currently for sale? Is the address legitimate? Does the "landlord" name match the property owner or is it a legitimate rental company?
- Search the name of the person with whom you are corresponding. Push to meet with them face-to-face. Ask for identification, and verify that person has the right to rent the home or timeshare property.
- Do not correspond only via email.
- Copy and paste chunks of text from the advertisement into an internet search to see if it has been stolen from another listing.
- Use reputable rental listing sites.
- If things seem to check out, be careful how you pay. Do not wire money or send a prepaid bank card. Pay by credit or PayPal, which offer some recourse for stolen money.

Immediately report to your local police agency if you think you are a victim of crime.  
To view other Fraud Alerts, go to [www.weldda.com](http://www.weldda.com).