DETECT REAL ESTATE FRAUD AND
SCAMMERS

Real estate scams are always lurking in our marketplace. Here are a few pointers to protect yourself from real estate fraud.

- **Always ask questions.** When callers offer you real estate services, immediately ask for their California real estate license number, local references and real estate experience…or ask them to stop calling.

- **Only talk to California Department of Real Estate (DRE) licensees.** Real estate brokers and agents must include their license numbers in all advertisements and solicitations. You have online access to their status and any disciplinary history at: https://www2.dre.ca.gov/publicasp/pplinfo.asp

- **Never pay in cash or wire money to anyone.** Cash and wired funds are used by scammers since the money is rarely recovered. Always pay by check to a licensed broker or institution.

- **Do not sign a document you do not fully understand.** Read all documents thoroughly. When you don't understand something, ask a long-time friend or licensed professional for help.

- **Beware of advertising.** Anyone can promote themselves using ads which are never reviewed for truthfulness or scams.

- **Do not sign papers to transfer your home to a third party without assistance from a licensed individual.** Scammers claiming to repair your credit or avoid creditors typically ask you to transfer title to your property to them, an immediate red flag to stop talking to them.

- **Do your research**. Search online and find out as much as possible about the person or entity talking to you. Look for reviews warning the public of a scam.

- **Refuse to be rushed**. Slow everything down when you feel pressured to "act now." Take your own sweet time and push back against any attempt by others to set deadlines.

- **Stay skeptical**. When a deal or a service sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Keep your money and title safe by not jumping on a deal that sounds too easy and perfect.

Looking for someone to help with real estate services? Feel free to check my license, then give me a call!