

## Housing Scams

### Signs of a Scam:

1. No one can show you the rental
2. No one can meet you in person and you don't know who the owner is.
3. It sounds too good to be true
4. The listing has poor grammar
5. The person is asking you to wire money
6. There is no lease to show
7. Having payments in cash
8. Ask you for your financial information
9. Limited background information

### Suggestions:

1. Avoid dealing with a middleman
2. Do your research about a place
3. Look at current market rates
4. Make sure platforms verify users
5. Talk to current or previous tenants

### Help or Reporting:

- Call the Federal Trade Commission Consumer Response Center toll-free hotline: 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357) Fill in the FTC online complaint form
- Montana Office of Consumer Protection: <https://dojmt.gov/consumer/>
- File a complaint to the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center: <https://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>



- Call the police and give them all the details you have on the deal you had and the person that turned out to be a scammer
- Contact your legal advisor or a lawyer who handles these issues
- Leave a negative review on this ad to make sure that no one else will fall into this trap
- Report any fake rental ads on websites to help others from scams.

