



## Wire Fraud Awareness & Prevention

Wire fraud is a type of financial scam where criminals trick individuals or businesses into sending money electronically by posing as trusted sources. These funds are often sent to fraudulent accounts and can be difficult or impossible to recover.

### **Common Signs of Wire Fraud Scams**

- Urgency and Pressure
- Unexpected Payment Requests
- Sudden Changes in Payment Instructions
- Unverified Emails or Calls
- Requests for Secrecy

### **Tips to Protect Yourself Against Wire Fraud**

- **Verify Before You Send** - Scammers often hack or spoof email accounts to send fraudulent wire instructions that look legitimate. Always verify in person or call a trusted contact at the receiving party's organization before sending any funds to the recipient.
- **Be Cautious of Unsolicited Requests and Sudden Account Changes** - Be cautious if someone you don't know asks for a wire transfer or financial information. Scammers often pose as trusted contacts. If you're told payment details have changed, stop and verify in person or by calling the recipient using a known, trusted number.
- **Look for Red Flags** - Take time to review instructions carefully. Look for misspellings, odd phrasing, or domain names that are almost correct. If you are pressured to act quickly or are given a sense of urgency, take a step back.

### **Reporting Wire Fraud If You Are a Victim**

1. Contact Farmers and Merchants Bank Immediately. We may be able to help stop or recover the transaction if reported quickly.
2. Notify Appropriate Channels – Report the fraud to your local law enforcement, the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov), and the Federal Trade Commission at [www.reportfraud.ftc.gov](http://www.reportfraud.ftc.gov).
4. Alert the Receiving Bank – If you know where the funds were sent, notify the recipient's bank to flag the fraudulent transaction.

**At Farmers and Merchants Bank, we are committed to protecting your financial security. If you ever have questions about a wire transfer request, don't hesitate to reach out to us before proceeding.**