



**QUICK
TIPS!**

HELP PROTECT YOURSELF FROM IMPOSTER LANDLORDS



Insist on meeting the prospective landlord in person by scheduling an in-person meeting in a public place or meet virtually. Ask for the location of the rental unit and tour the unit before renting it. Remember to bring a trusted family member or friend with you.



Use an Internet search engine to look up the prospective rental address. It may already be listed by a legitimate landlord on a different website. You can also conduct a reverse image search of prospective rental property photos. This search will determine if the photos are present elsewhere on the Internet.



If you are renting a government-subsidized unit (such as a unit advertised as a "voucher" or "section 8" unit), contact your local public housing authority at the phone number or email address listed on their public website to verify the landlord before sending money, documentation, or rental forms.



Pay your rent with a check, money order, or other verifiable means to track the money. Avoid using cash, gift cards, or other forms of payment. Keep a copy of the check or money order and ask for a receipt as a record of your payment. Never give a landlord a blank check or blank money order.

Report fraud schemes involving public housing or other HUD-funded government programs or benefits, by contacting the HUD OIG Hotline at 1-800-347-3735 or visit, <https://www.hudoig.gov/hotline>.

"The work that provided the basis for this publication was supported by funding under an award with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The substance and findings of the work are dedicated to the public. The author and publisher are solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this publication. Such interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of the Government."

**WEST TENNESSEE
LEGAL SERVICES**

