

To: All Louisiana Issuing Policy Agents of WFG National Title Insurance Company

From: WFG Underwriting Department

Date: January 27, 2025 Bulletin No. LA 2025-01

Subject: Fraud Prevention Reminder

We continue to receive reports of Louisiana agents being targeted by fraudsters. In two recent cases, both agents reported multiple fake checks drawn on their escrow accounts. Thankfully, payment on the fake checks was stopped by Positive Pay controls in one case and an attentive bank employee in the other. In another incident, an agent wired proceeds to a fake out-of-state seller of vacant land.

Please remain vigilant and employ good security practices. Implement Positive Pay on financial accounts. Use secure messaging systems and wire verification services to send and receive wire instructions. Carry cyber insurance, and familiarize yourself with the policy requirements and coverage limits. Ensure that packages containing nonpublic personal information and settlement funds are accepted by the USPS or commercial carrier in person and not left in unattended collection boxes.

Take steps to combat seller impersonation fraud. Mail a 'welcome' letter to the property owners at the address provided on the tax bill alerting them to the pending transaction and advising them to contact your office immediately if they did not execute the purchase agreement. Do not allow parties to select notaries for their remote signings. Use other trusted title companies and send documents directly to them for 'mail away' closings. We can help to connect you with other WFG agents and offices outside your area.

If you suspect that you have been the victim of fraud, immediately notify all financial institutions involved in the transaction, file a report at ic3.gov and contact WFG for further instructions.

Information Bulletins are designed to provide our agents with information we think will help in managing their business or just being better title professionals, but which does not rise to the level of being an underwriting mandate and are not within the scope of the agency agreement.