

Fraud Update: Scammers Impersonating Real Estate Regulators (November 9, 2009)

OREC has recently learned that scammers around the country are impersonating state regulators in order to swindle real estate licensees. The unknown source seeks to obtain a real estate licensee's credit card number and/or a social security number via phone or email by stating that the regulatory agency has required a credit card be updated and placed on file as required by state law, i.e., criminal history background check, etc. The caller or e-mailer then tells licensees that if they do not comply by providing the information over the phone or completing and returning the form by email, the agency will suspend their license and/or they will not be eligible to renew the license.

DO NOT RESPOND if you receive a suspicious call or email from someone purporting to be an OREC staff member, asking you to provide personal information, including credit card numbers, social security numbers, or any other identifying information. OREC does not accept any payments by phone or email and will never make such a request. If you receive such a request, please contact the Commission immediately with the details.

Please be aware of this scam and protect your personal information. If you have received a suspicious call or email involving OREC and provided personal information, please first file a report with your local police department and then notify OREC of the situation.

For further reference, please see the attached article from the ARELLO Boundaries, November 2009 edition.

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