BEWARE OF PRINT & ONLINE CLASSIFIEDS SCAMS

Use classifieds for private-party sales? Beware of scammers posing as buyers or sellers

KEEP IN MIND WHEN SELLING ...

Classifieds are a popular way to advertise and sell a wide variety of items, however, not everyone browsing the advertised goods has good intentions.

Be cautious when selling your items, and watch for signs that the person answering your ad may be a scammer.

Warning signs include buyers who will not meet in person, do not want to communicate by phone call, or pay with a check for more than the determined price and asks you to refund the overpaid amount.

KEEP IN MIND WHEN BUYING ...

Turning to print and online classifieds to get a good deal can sometimes pay off because private sellers often offer a better price than retailers, particularly when the item is slightly used.

But sadly, scammers will sometimes pose as sellers and post fake ads in order to defraud unknowing buyers.

Warning signs include deals that are "too good to be true," and sellers who request pre-payment through wire transfer or preloaded cash card.

GENERAL SAFETY SUGGESTIONS

Craigslist offers the following safety precautions when buying or selling items through classifieds:

- Trust your instincts.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it is likely the case.
- Insist on meeting at a public place such as a police station.
- Do not invite strangers into your home, or go to theirs.
- Perform sale or purchase during daylight hours.
- Tell a family member or friend about your plans to meet up with a buyer or seller, and take your cellphone.

Contact Us

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909.839.7010 or 909.348.8334

This leaflet is part of a series of public safety-related materials co-created by City of Diamond Bar and L.A. County Sheriff's Department and available on the City website for viewing, downloading, and sharing.

www.diamondbarca.gov/publicsafety

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