

Dear Stewart Partners,

We hope that you all survived the first “nor’easter” of the season without suffering too much damage. The end of October means Halloween and trick or treating, and in this week’s update we want to remind you not to get tricked by fraudsters. October is also cybersecurity awareness month, which makes it a good time to make you aware of some of the resources available to you to help keep you safe. We’ve included links to information provided by ALTA and Stewart that you can share with your staff, realtors, lenders, and clients. We also want to remind you that real estate fraud is broader than just wire fraud. Stewart’s claims avoidance group recently issued a bulletin regarding a scam that has been resurfacing recently.

- *ALTA cybersecurity resources*

With October being cybersecurity awareness month, ALTA has issued a series of blog posts highlighting tools and resources available to educate your staff and your clients. The material includes videos and an infographic regarding wire fraud that can be sent to clients. You can view the videos and download the infographic PDF here: <https://blog.alt.org/2021/10/help-your-company-and-customers-becybersmart.html>

- *Stewart cybersecurity resources*

Stewart also has videos and other resources that you can send to clients to educate them about the importance of cybersecurity. For a link to Stewart’s wire fraud video, click here: <https://www.stewart.com/en/landing-pages/wire-fraud.html>

Stewart’s marketing website is an additional resource for educational and other marketing pieces that can be customized with your office’s information and sent to realtors and clients. If you have any questions on accessing these materials, please contact your Agency Sales Representative.

- *Bulletin on claims avoidance – fraudulent land sale schemes*

Stewart’s claims avoidance group recently issued a bulletin warning agents of the reemergence of an older scam that has become popular with fraudsters seeking to make a quick buck. The scam involves an attempted sale of property by a fraudster impersonating the real owner. These sales usually involve vacant properties and the dealings are done via email, text and phone – the individuals involved generally don’t meet with a title agent in person. There are several red flags that you should be aware of, and they are listed in the bulletin here: <https://www.virtualunderwriter.com/en/bulletins/2021-9/sls2021007.html>

- *Stewart’s Massachusetts COVID-19 Resource Page & Information Page – URL CHANGE*

Our easy reference page, which provides you quick access to all our Mid-Week updates, gap coverage affidavits, and bulletins that specifically relate to COVID and other emergency orders, has moved. Save this new URL as bookmark in your web browser for easy access: <https://www.stewart.com/en/state-pages/massachusetts-agents/underwriting-resources/covid-19.html>

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