

How ALTA Safeguards Homeowners: Fighting Seller Impersonation Fraud With Title Insurance

CRIMINALS HAVE DEVELOPED TACTICS to impersonate property owners and illegally sell their properties so they can steal the proceeds.

This is commonly referred to as *seller impersonation fraud*.

Red Flags in Real Estate Transactions

- The property is occupied by someone other than the owner, or is investment, vacation or rental property.
- The property is listed for sale below market value.
- The seller insists on a quick sale.

Consumer Tips

- If it sounds too good to be true, ask questions.
- Talk to a title insurance professional or real estate attorney about your options for title insurance.
- If you suspect fraud or feel something is wrong, act immediately. Contact local law enforcement and file a report with the FBI at [IC3.gov](https://www.ic3.gov). You can also reach out to your title insurance professional or real estate attorney via phone.



Understanding Title Insurance Coverage Options

With deed fraud on the rise, prospective and current homeowners may want to ensure their property is protected for the long haul. Since 1998, the ALTA Homeowner's Policy has offered these additional protections, and now the title industry is providing new endorsement options for future and existing homeowners.

Homeowners have two different options: The ALTA Homeowner's Policy offers enhanced protections, including coverage for fraud or forgery that happens after you purchase the property; consumers also have the option of purchasing a policy endorsement to the Owner's Policy, providing coverage specifically for future deed or mortgage forgery.

Current homeowners who have a basic Owner's Policy can request the addition of post-policy coverage for deed or mortgage forgery by reaching out to their title company.

To find a trusted title insurance professional near you, visit homeclosing101.org.