

Consumer Fraud Prevention

What is Fraud?

Fraud is defined as any intentional or deliberate act to deprive another of property or money, by deception, or other unfair means. Fraud takes many forms: Telephone scams, email scams, falsification of official documents, theft of money or personal information, and more.

Your Clerk and Comptroller, Karen E. Rushing, offers tools to help you protect yourself, and issues alerts about schemes where impersonators act like Clerk or Comptroller employees in an attempt to defraud citizens.

If you think you may have been the victim of a scam, you should contact your local law enforcement agency or the Florida Division of Consumer Services at (800) HELP-FLA (Florida Residents) or (850) 410-3800 from outside Florida.

What is Property Fraud?



Property and identity fraud are a nationwide problem. By filing fake deeds, scammers appear to own property, and can fraudulently rent or sell the property without the knowledge of the true owner. By signing up for the Clerk and Comptroller's Property Fraud Alert Service, you will receive an email whenever a document is recorded in Sarasota County using your personal or business name. Notifications are sent within 24 hours of the document being recorded, alerting you so you can look up the documents through public records, or dispute through law enforcement. Registration is simple and free.

For more information, refer to the Frequently Asked Questions.