
Fraudulent Payment Instructions

ALIA has recently received reports of a novel scam in which the fraudster addresses an email to a member of a lawyer's staff (for example an office accountant) and uses the lawyer's name as the sender, but the sender's email

address is not that of the lawyer. In the email, the fraudster instructs the lawyer's staff member to process a payment, providing details of the account to which the funds are to be sent.



This scam demonstrates one of the red flags of fraud: the sender's email address and the displayed name for that address are different. Such red flags can be indicators of problems or risk and identifying them can prevent fraud and loss.

Action to be taken:

Lawyers and their staff should be aware of and on the lookout for the [red flags](#) of fraud. Lawyers should also ensure that they have implemented appropriate processes involving payments from firm bank accounts to prevent fraud.

The Alberta Lawyers Insurance Association (ALIA) provides the ALIAAlert service to all Alberta lawyers participating in the indemnity program. ALIA does not independently confirm the facts or allegations provided to us. If you believe that you have been targeted by potential fraudulent activity, please contact ALIAAlert.