Rental Scams;
Not Demure. Not mindful.

Rental scams are everywhere, and our hope is that you will be able to tell the difference between what a real listing is and what's fake. We want you to be able to find the perfect apartment, so here are the things you should look for to keep yourself safe.

If it looks like a fish and smells like a fish, it probably is one. If a listing looks fishy or you've got a gut feeling that something with it is wrong, trust that feeling. Don't hesitate to ask others to take a look and get a second opinion on it. By searching the Fort Collins rental database, addresses online, and doing a reverse image search, you can begin to determine if the listing is real!

You should always take a tour of any apartment you are thinking of signing a lease for *before* signing to ensure that the listing is real. If you are unsure of the property you're about to tour, don't hesitate to take a buddy with you. While not common anymore, it isn't out of the (g)norm for landlords to require a touring fee. Some fees are normal, such as an application fee or administrative fees. However, you should never give any potential landlord large sums of money before you have had a chance to review and sign a lease.

You might be thinking, "But Gnorman, where can I go to start looking?" Good question! Places such as our website have a ton of great resources such as **Rentalsearch** and the **Apartment Complex list.** These places are a great way to begin the search for your college dream apartment. Rentalsearch is run by our amazing team and partner, College Pads! We do our best to filter out any listings that may be a scam. Rams look out for Rams, and we are doing our best to look out for you!

Places such as Facebook have excellent opportunities for housing as well! There are several housing pages where students may post a sublease listing when they are going overseas for a study abroad. Using the tips that we went over earlier will help you determine if these listings are real, as our team does not monitor these pages.

According to an Ic3 (Internet Crime Complaint Center) data study conducted by the FBI, in 2021 alone over $350 Million was stolen in rental scams. So being aware of the signs of a rental scam could save you a lot of money!

CSU provides resources to help you avoid these scams! Off-Campus Life and Student Legal Services are here to help you find the best and most real place for you. We recommend that you take your lease to SLS to have it reviewed before you sign it.

Now that you know the tips and tricks to avoid a rental scam, you are ready to begin your search! Good luck Rams!

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