



Lawyers' Insurance Association of Nova Scotia

ALERT!

New 'personalized' scam emails

A new twist on the common trust account, inheritance or financial institution email scams involve members receiving 'requests' that have their own names incorporated into the subject or message itself. The inheritance scams refer to a deceased individual who shares the last name of the member being targeted. This is an effective new tactic that catches the attention and time of the member while they determine the legitimacy of the communication.

Although the specific details may change (names, countries, monetary figures), the first sign of most scams are that they sound too good to be true.

- Legitimate estates do not solicit trustees or heirs by email and do not promise a percentage of the inheritance to carry out the transaction.
- In cases where you've "won a prize", legitimate winners never have to pay a fee in order to collect their prize.
- Financial institutions will never email you requesting that you provide your private financial information to resolve a problem with your account.
- Legitimate clients will not issue a cheque for an amount higher than the agreed price and expect you to reimburse the balance.

Remember that you must always confirm a prospective client's identification in accordance with the [Client ID Regulations](#) of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society.

*To report or seek advice on fraud and scam attempts, contact **Cynthia Nield, Database and Information Officer** at cnield@lians.ca or call **902 423 1300, x346**.*

To ensure that you don't miss future resource postings, important fraud alerts and other valuable updates from LIANS, remember to add cnield@lians.ca to your 'Safe List'.