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CRAIGSLIST SCAMS KEEP CROPPING UP

🕒 02/04/2017 👤 Anna 📁 Uncategorized

You would think Craigslist could build better filtering for people who post properties for rent. These scams are getting better and better at disguising that they are actual scams. I have been looking for a house for close to two years. No real luck. Some we saw were actually nice but too much red tape for me to bother with. We'll keep looking until the perfect place pops up. Until then, here's some advice when looking for YOUR perfect place on Craigslist.

- If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.
- Get the address and find it! You'll know if it's legit if there's any for rent signage. If it says "for sale", keep moving along!
- A real landlord or property manager will never ask you to send your information through e-mail. Ask where you can pick up a legitimate rental application. Inform them that you do not feel comfortable giving out personal information online.
- Once you have the address, do a parcel search. In Erie County, New York, the parcel search website is [here](#). *If you are unsure what your County and State parcel search is, just google your county and state assessors office. It may or may not be located online. You might have to call your local assessors office for the information.*

For Erie County, New York (once you click on the link), all you have to do is input the number of the address and then street name. For example 100 main (for 100 main street) and click Submit. A screen shot of this example is below:

Real Property Parcel Search

Real Property Information
<http://www2.erie.gov/ecrpts/index.php?q=real-property-parcel-search>
This site is a subset of the NYS Real Property System. It is composed of the most commonly referenced information.
All information is for public use.
Information as of: July, 2016
Erie County does not assume any liability associated with the use or misuse of this data.

Enter ONE of the fields below to begin your search: **#2**

Owner Name (Last Name First) or **#1**

Property Address: No./ Street

S-B-L

Search All

**#3 Just press Submit Query
There's no need to fill in anything else!**

Discriminatory housing ads are still being placed on Craigslist. Not the obvious ones that people often associate with discrimination (skin color, race, genetic information, and disability). The one I am referring to is "familial status". This screen shot is directly from this [Craigslist page](#).

Recognizing a discriminatory posting

[\[top\]](#)

In general, a posting is discriminatory if it expresses a **limitation or preference** based on one of the [protected categories](#), which may vary depending upon where you reside, but which always include the seven (7) [federal categories](#). State or local laws may protect other categories. Go [here](#) for a quick summary of additional laws near you.

A posting is also discriminatory if it uses language that might be **discouraging** towards a certain protected category. For instance, saying that a particular apartment is "perfect for a single or couple" could be discouraging towards families with children, who do not fit within the stated groups. Please note that unintentionally discriminatory postings are still illegal.

Lastly, a posting is discriminatory if it uses language that might have a **disparate, or disproportional, impact** on a certain protected category. For instance, an advertisement for a 2 bedroom unit which states a preference for "2 persons only" might have a disparate impact on families with children because, though it does not explicitly state a preference based on familial status, it creates an overly restrictive occupancy limit which would affect families with children to a greater extent than other types of households. (For more information on reasonable occupancy limits, see [HUD's guidance on occupancy standards](#).)

YOU CAN READ THIS IN IT'S ENTIRETY BY CLICKING THE LINK ABOVE THIS IMAGE.

- If you believe a post is in violation of any local laws or Craigslist posting rules, just flag it! Remember if you cannot acquire transportation to check out a posting, see if a friend or family member can take you or even drive by to see if the posting is legitimate.
- NEVER pay for security deposit and first months rent through western union or money transferring service. All transactions of this sort should be face to face, in a public place, with a friend or family member present as a witness, and receipt of transaction given to you immediately after payment (a receipt proving you have paid first months rent and

- ☰ security deposit). Usually at these meetings the rental or lease agreement is signed. If this is a month to month transaction, insist on a letter that specifically states: the rental property address, that you are the tenant of that domicile, landlord name, landlord mailing address, and your current monthly rent in dollar amount.
- Go with your gut feeling above all!

Hope everyone enjoys a safe and happy home search, no matter if you are a renter, lessee, or buyer!

-Anna

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Some headlines I've seen as of late: Although such orders are often viewed as carrying more legal weight than other kinds of presidential directives, experts say there is no substantive difference between them. As long as the directives conform to the Constitution and statutes, they carry the force of the law, but...

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📌 #apartments #buying #craigslist #erie county #houses #new york #renting
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Interesting stuff to think about!

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