

## Insurance Fraud Prevention: 3 Tips to Stay Safe

March is Fraud Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness about fraud and scams, including those targeting the insurance industry.

Fraud is constantly evolving, and the best way to protect yourself is to stay informed and vigilant to detect and prevent deceptive tactics.

Stay one step ahead of fraudsters by familiarizing yourself with the following tips and help protect others by sharing with friends and family.

### Watch for Red Flags of Fraud

Proceed with caution and get a second opinion if you encounter any red flags:

- Premiums seem too good to be true and are significantly lower than other quotes
- Unsolicited offers by text, social media, or a non-business email account (e.g. Hotmail or Gmail)
- E-transfer payment requests
- Poor spelling and grammar in communications and documents
- Inability to answer questions in detail
- Refusal to send formal documents

### Follow These 3 Tips to Prevent Insurance Fraud

#### Verify Licensing and Registration

Always confirm that the person or company offering insurance is licensed and registered with the appropriate regulatory bodies in your area. Fraudsters often pose as fake agents or representatives of legitimate companies. Refer to the website of your provincial regulatory body for more information and to verify your insurance professional is licensed.

#### Understand your Policy

Insurance fraud often targets people who do not fully understand their policies. Fraudsters exploit knowledge gaps or misunderstandings of terms and conditions. Make sure you understand your insurance contract and that it suits your needs.

#### Protect Personal Information

Fraudsters may use stolen or hacked personal information to make fraudulent claims. Never share personal or financial details over the phone or online unless you are certain of the recipient's identity.

### Suspect Insurance Fraud?

Report any suspected insurance fraud to your insurance provider immediately. Most insurers have fraud hotlines, and regulatory agencies allow you to file reports of suspicious behaviour.

By staying informed, cautious, and proactive, you can reduce your risk of falling victim to insurance fraud. Remember, if something seems too good to be true, it probably is. Take the time to research, ask questions, and protect your personal and financial information.