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### ADVISORY COMMUNICATION

**ISSUED BY:** Columbia Title  
**DATE ISSUED:** February 4, 2020  
**TITLE:** Beware of Spoofing emails Purporting to be Messages from Columbia Title

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### ADVISORY

Columbia Title was recently made aware that emails purporting to be from a Columbia Title sender, inviting the recipient to click on an attachment, are fraudulently being sent targeting real estate agents. These scam emails convey a sense of urgency by urging the reader to click on a final closing statement for review. **IT IS A FRAUDULENT EMAIL AND THE LINK SHOULD NOT BE OPENED.**

We remind you that fraudsters are flooding the electronic marketplace with their phishing emails like the one below, and that you must be ever vigilant to guard yourself, your bank accounts, and your computer/networks systems from this never-ending barrage of attacks.

If you were not expecting to receive an email from Columbia Title, you can always call one of your Columbia Title contacts to question the identity of the supposed Columbia Title sender, in order to obtain a telephone number for the alleged sender. You can then verify whether the email was actually sent from a Columbia Title employee. For instance, with the sender in the below email (“Marcella Ritchie”), following the protocol above would reveal that Columbia Title does not employ anyone named Marcella Ritchie. You can also protect yourself by carefully scrutinizing the information contained in the body of the email. By example, in the below email, you will note that although the signature block identifies Marcella Ritchie as a Columbia Title Branch Manager, her email address in the “From” line notes an email domain of “@gutkowski.com” and not @columbiatitlegroup.com.

See the sham email on the next page.

Contact Information for questions: If you have any questions, please feel free to contact an Administrator at [admin@columbiatitlegroup.com](mailto:admin@columbiatitlegroup.com).

Or by phone to our offices:

Covington	(765) 293-0888
Delphi	(765) 564-3489
Evansville	(812) 471-8563
Lafayette	(765) 423-2457
Monticello	(574) 808-3499

**SHAM EMAIL:**



Tue 1/21/2020 3:13 PM

mary ellen webster <maryellen\_webster@yahoo.com>

Fw: 42038 - 8351674032 File: Combined Statement

To: monticello@columbiatitlegroup.com

Click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of some pictures in this message.

Message 0448441101ALTA Combined Settlement Statement for review (secured).pdf (281 KB)

Bing Maps

— Forwarded Message —

From: Lamar Dooley <beahan.margie@gutkowski.com>

To: "maryellen\_webster@yahoo.com" <maryellen\_webster@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020, 10:32:35 AM EST

Subject: 42038 - 8351674032 File: Combined Statement

Hello [maryellen\\_webster@yahoo.com](mailto:maryellen_webster@yahoo.com).

Attached please find the Combined Closing disclosure, sent via OneDrive

Marcella Ritchie

Branch Manager

Columbia Title, Inc.

915 W. Fisher Street, Suite C

Monticello, IN 47960

Phone: 574-808-3499 x300

Fax: 574-808-3622



[ADDRESS INFORMATION](#) | [EVIEW LOGIN](#) | [MYCASE LOGIN](#)  
[SUBMIT A LISTING FOR ORESTV](#) | [REGISTER FOR A CE CLASS](#)

**END OF SHAM EMAIL.**

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**COLUMBIA TITLE PRIVACY AND SECURITY POLICY**

Columbia Title (CT) has adopted and maintains a written privacy and information security program to protect Non-public Personal Information as required by local, state, and federal law. CT maintains an Information Security Policy that conforms to federal and state law as well as requirements set forth by our underwriters for holding and securing non-public personal information. CT has developed a Disaster Recovery Plan for the company's network, systems, and applications. CT utilizes encrypted email for transmitting non-public personal information. CT maintains a "Clean Desk" policy for all non-public information stored in its offices. CT may perform employee screening in the form of background checks in its hiring process. Columbia Title maintains a "Cyber Liability" insurance policy for the benefit of our customers. If you have any questions, contact [admin@columbiatitlegroup.com](mailto:admin@columbiatitlegroup.com).

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