

May 22, 2020

COVID-19 and Sublease Scams

Beware of scammers posing as potential sublessees! Many students who are looking for sublessees by posting on social media are being contacted by scammers. The scammer tells the student that they are moving to Los Angeles from some far away location and would like to sublease the student's apartment. The scammer says that a family member, friend, or financial manager who lives in the area will mail the student a check to cover rent and the security deposit. The student should deposit it, and then send the scammer part of the money so the scammer will have money to pay to ship their car or possessions, among other alleged reasons. The scammer may try to avoid telephone communication by claiming they are deaf, too busy, or another excuse. The check bounces so the student has lost all of the money that they sent to the scammer. It is virtually impossible to identify these scammers as they are highly skilled at hiding their tracks.

If you have any concerns about whether a potential sublessee is legitimate, you may seek assistance from **UCLA Student Legal Services** if you are a currently registered UCLA student. Please complete the form at this link to request an appointment: <https://www.studentlegal.ucla.edu/intake-form.php>. Student Legal Services is offering appointments by Zoom and waiving all fees; there are no in-person services. You also can contact Student Legal Services at slegal@saonet.ucla.edu and 310.825.9894. Student Legal Services is located in A239 Murphy Hall, but all work is being done remotely.