

Avoiding Scams

Con artists have been around since Eden, but the internet has made scamming easier and more anonymous. Millions of attempts are made annually to defraud innocent people out of their hard-earned savings, and thousands succumb to the wiles of this ancient profession. According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), buying and selling cars is no exception.

The following six tips from the FTC are worth mentioning here:

- Deal with folks you can meet in person. You can avoid most scams if you follow this rule.
- Never wire funds via Western Union, Money Gram, or any other money transfer service. Generally, if you are asked to do this, it is a scam.
- Beware of non-local buyers who want to pay you with a Cashier's Check or Money Order. Fraudulent, fake Cashier's Checks and Money Orders are common. Your bank will cash them and then hold you responsible when the fake is discovered weeks later.
- Beware of non-local buyers who offer you more than the asking price for your vehicle to cover "shipping" or "agent's" costs. This is a scam.
- Beware of non-local buyers who only want to communicate by email. This is a common tactic by scammers.
- Finally, if the offer for your car seems too good to be true, it just might be a scam.

For more information visit the Federal Trade Commission's website at:
<https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/buying-used-car-dealer>.