



For Arch MI and Arch MI For Credit Unions

# **Mortgage Fraud**

Do Your Diligence

a MORTGAGE SKILLS course





## **Legal Disclaimer**



Arch Mortgage Insurance Company is providing this training to you for use as a training tool only. These materials are not intended, nor should they be relied upon for any other purpose, including underwriting actual mortgage loans without independent verification and testing by your in-house quality control and/or compliance personnel or actual preparation of documents, which may be presented in the materials. All materials presented are samples for illustrative purposes only.





## **Agenda**



## What Is Mortgage Fraud?

### **Impact of Mortgage Fraud**

Mortgage Fraud Statistics

### **Mortgage Fraud Categories**

## **Ways to Prevent Mortgage Fraud**

Common Red Flags

## **Types of Fraud**

Red Flag Activities







What is Mortgage Fraud?





## What is Mortgage Fraud?



- Mortgage fraud is a crime characterized by some type of material misstatement, misrepresentation or omission on a loan, which is then relied upon by a lender.
- Fraud can occur at any point during the transaction, from inception to funding.





## **Mortgage Fraud**



#### MORTGAGE FRAUD IS INVESTIGATED BY THE FBI



Mortgage Fraud is investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is punishable by up to 30 years in federal prison or \$1,000,000 fine, or both. It is illegal for a person to make any false statement regarding income, assets, debt, or matters of identification, or to willfully overvalue any land or property, in a loan and credit application for the purpose of influencing in any way the action of a financial institution.

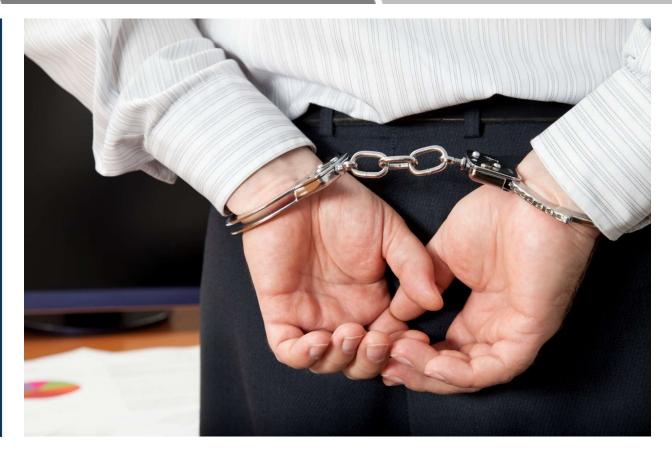
Some of the applicable Federal criminal statutes which may be charged in connection with Mortgage Fraud include:

18 U.S.C. § 1001 - Statements or entries generally
18 U.S.C. § 1010 - HUD and Federal Housing Administration Transactions
18 U.S.C. § 1014 - Loan and credit applications generally
18 U.S.C. § 1025 - Fraud and related activity in connection with identification documents
18 U.S.C. § 1314 - Frauds and swindles by Mail

18 U.S.C. § 1342 - Fictitious name or address

18 U.S.C. § 1343 - Fraud by wire 18 U.S.C. § 1344 - Bank Fraud 42 U.S.C. § 408(a) - False Social Security Number

Unauthorized use of the FBI seal, name, and initials is subject to prosecution under Sections 701, 709, and 712 of Title 18 of the United States Code. This advisement may not be changed or altered without the specific written consent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and its not an endersement of any productor service.









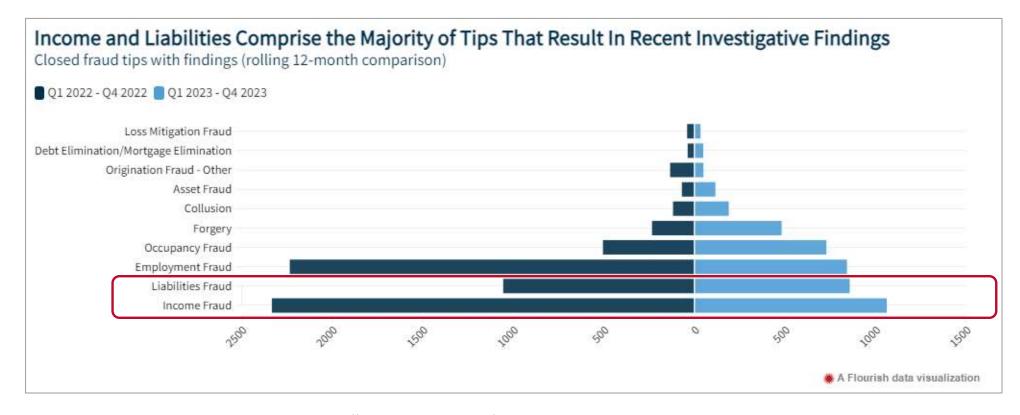
**Mortgage Fraud Statistics** 





# Fannie Mae Mortgage Fraud Tip Trends — Top Characteristics



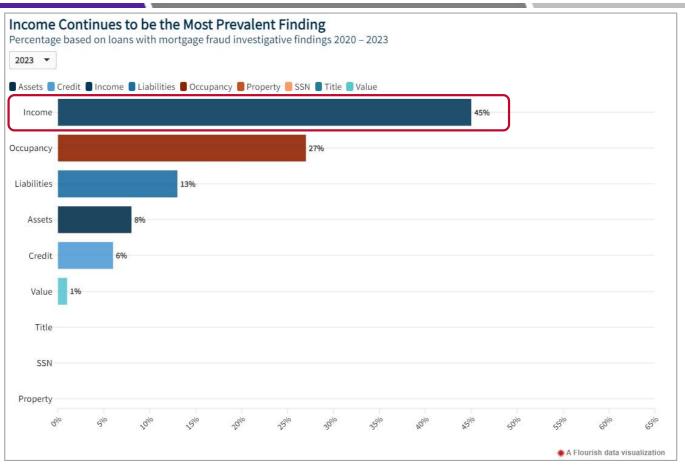




https://singlefamily.fanniemae.com/mortgage-fraud-prevention, February 7, 2024

# Fannie Mae Mortgage Fraud Loan Trends — Most Prevalent Finding









Mortgage Fraud Categories





# **Mortgage Fraud Categories**



- 1. Fraud for housing.
- 2. Fraud for profit.





## **Fraud for Housing**



- Motivated by desire/need to purchase a home.
- May misrepresent loan application information, e.g., inflate income or assets.
- Facts about the borrower or property are omitted or altered and loan is approved based on information disclosed and verified.





#### **Fraud for Profit**



- Motivated by money/greed.
- Schemes involve a pattern: two or more mortgage loans, multiple parties in various roles within the mortgage industry.
- Elaborate scheme involves industry insiders who know how to exploit the mortgage system.
- No true intent to repay the mortgage.





## **Mortgage Fraud Categories**



# The 80/20 Rule

- 80% of mortgage fraud is for housing.
- 20% of mortgage fraud is for profit.
- 80% of fraud losses come from the 20% group.



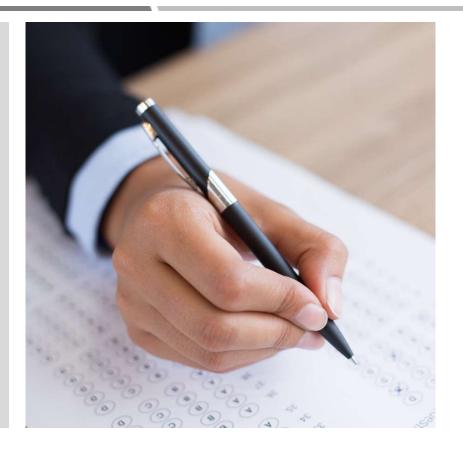


# **Knowledge Check One**



Is the following **true** or **false**?

■ For mortgage fraud to occur, the fraud must take place at the beginning of the transaction.





## **Check Your Understanding One**



The answer is *false*.

 Mortgage fraud CAN take place at any point in the transaction.







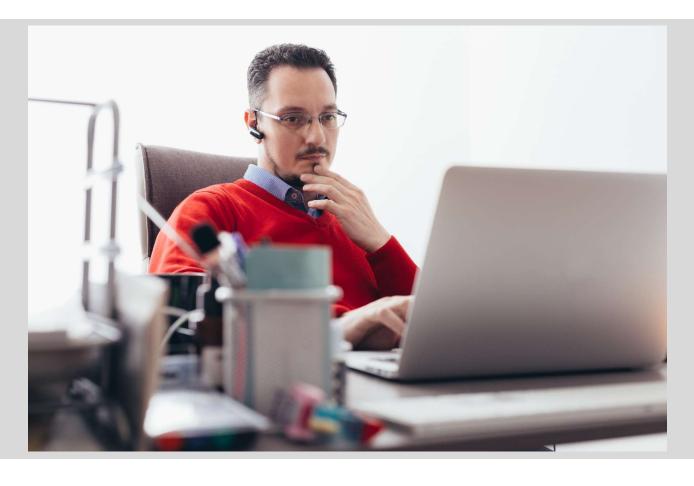
Ways to Prevent Mortgage Fraud





# Red Flags



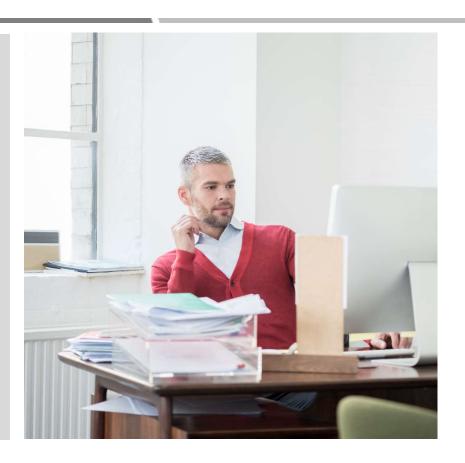




# What Are Red Flags ?



- Red flags are inconsistencies in the information presented in a mortgage loan file.
- Items in file that trigger questions.
- Not easy to detect.
- Something in the file that doesn't quite make sense.





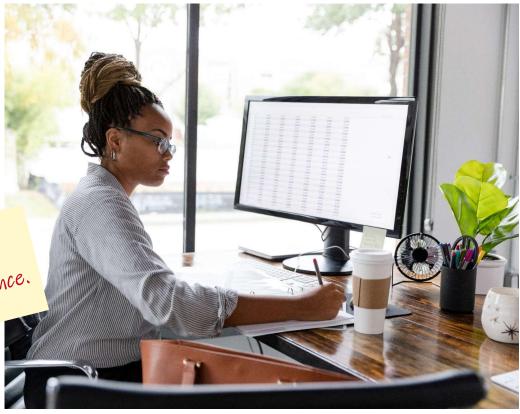
## **Loan File Review**



- Review for inconsistencies.
- Are there missing pieces to the loan story?
- Warrants additional scrutiny and clarification.

IMPORTANT!

Do your due diligence.







Ways to Prevent Mortgage Fraud Common Red Flags





# Common Red Flags



- Mortgage Application:
  - Changes from handwritten to typed.
- Sales Contract:
  - Purchaser is not the applicant.
- Credit Report:
  - Duplicate Social Security numbers.
  - Death or fraud alerts.

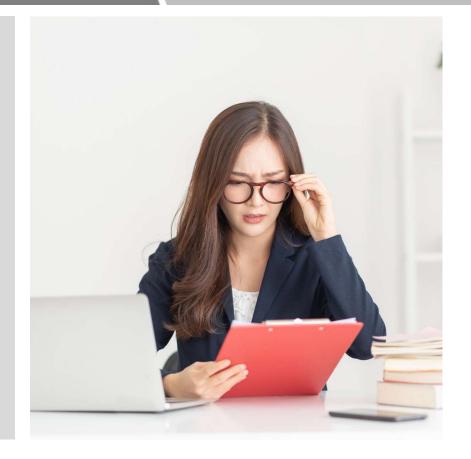




# Common Red Flags



- Employment and Income:
  - Employer name similar to borrower name.
  - Odd or missing withholdings.
  - Year-to-date/past-year earnings are even dollar amounts.
- Assets:
  - Two-month average balance is equal to the present balance on bank statement.
- Appraisal:
  - Appraisal dated before sales contract.
  - Owner is not the seller.





# A Process for Handling Red Flags



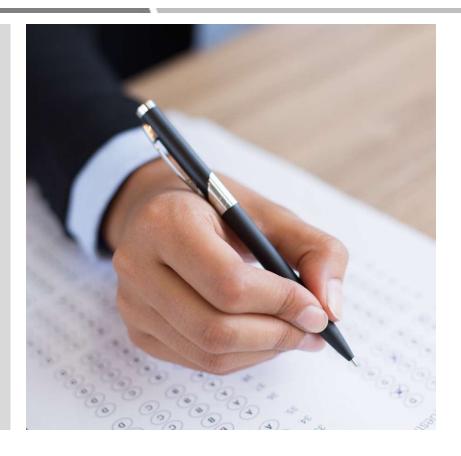




# **Knowledge Check Two**



Do you know your company's procedure for escalating suspicious activity?

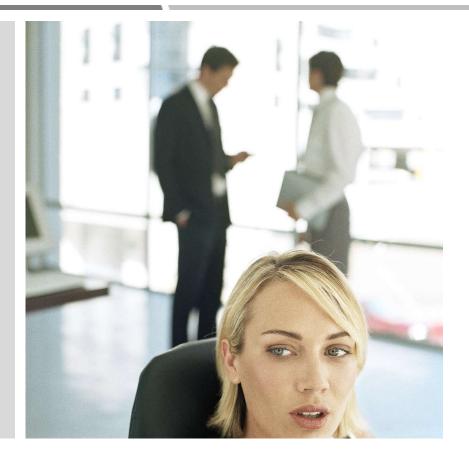




## **Check Your Understanding Two**



■ If your answer was "no," be sure to take the time to become familiar with your company's internal fraud procedure(s).











## **Some Types of Fraud**



Employment Fraud

> Liabilities Fraud

Income Fraud



Documentation Fraud

Occupancy Fraud

Identity Theft Appraisal Fraud



#### **Income Fraud**



## What Is Income Fraud?

- Borrower's income was either inflated or fabricated.
- Most frequent type of mortgage fraud.
- Internet makes it easier:
  - Websites offer false verification of income or employment, forged W-2's, or tax returns.





## Income Fraud — Red Flag Examples



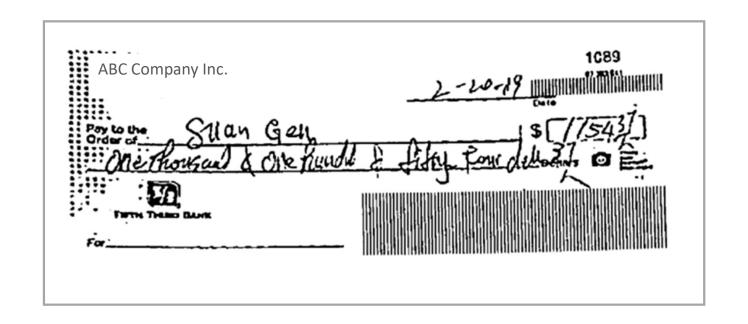
- Year-to-date or past-year earnings are even dollar amounts.
- Withholding is not calculated correctly (check FICA tables).
- Withholding totals vary significantly from pay period to pay period.
- Pay period dates overlap and/or do not correspond with other documentation.
- Abnormalities in paycheck numbering.
- Handwritten VOE, pay stubs or W-2 forms.
- W-2 form presented is not the employee's copy.
- Employer's identification number has a format other than 12-3456789.
- High-income applicant without paid preparer.
- Applicant reports substantial income but has no cash in the bank.
- Reasonableness test: Income appears to be out of line with the type of employment.





# **Income Fraud Example #1, Proof of Income**

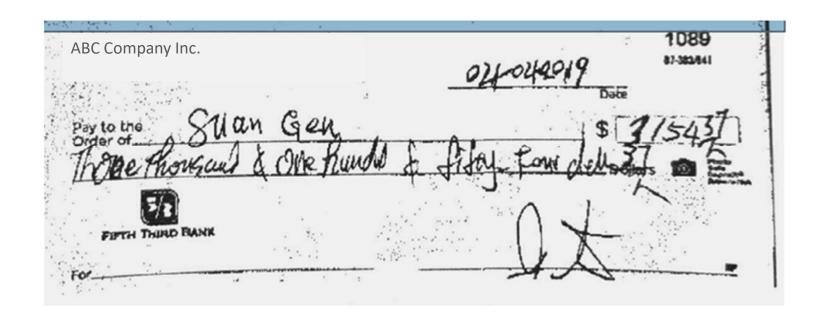






# **Income Fraud Example #1, Proof of Raise**







## **Income Fraud Example #1, Comparison**







## **Employment Fraud**



## What Is Employment Fraud?

- The misrepresentation of the length, status or existence of a borrower's employment.
- Second most common type of mortgage fraud.

IMPORTANT!

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Is "Active" on all written and writing of werbal verifications of werbal verifications.

Employment.





## **Employment Fraud** — Red Flag Examples



- Applicant's job title is generic (Manager, Vice President).
- Employer's address is a post office box, the property address or applicant's current residence.
- Applicant's residence is (will be) in a location remote from employer.
- Employer's name is similar to a party to the transaction; e.g., uses the applicant's initials.
- Employer cannot be contacted.
- W-2 form presented is not the employee's copy.
- Employer's identification number has a format other than 12-3456789.
- Self-employed applicant does not make estimated tax payments.





## **Did You Know?**



## **FICA = Federal Insurance Contributions Act**

- 1. 6.2% Social Security tax.
- 2. 1.45% Medicare tax.
- 3. .9% Medicare tax surtax for earnings >\$200,000.



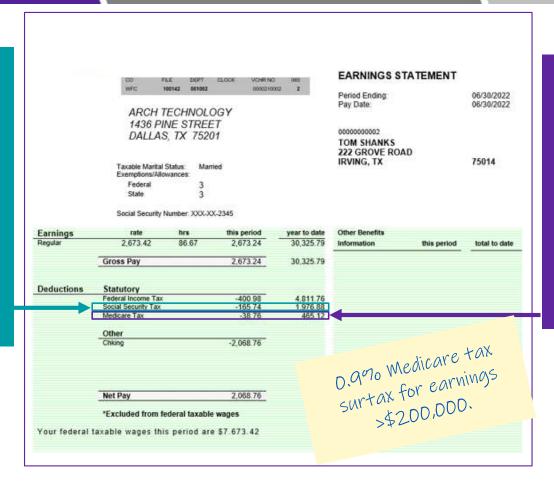


## What's Important to Check on Earnings Statement



The Social
Security Tax
deduction
should be 6.2%
of the Gross
Pay.

\$2,673.24 X 6.2% = \$165.74



The Medicare
Tax deduction
should be
1.45% of the
Gross Pay.

\$2,673.24 X 1.45% = \$38.76



## **Social Security Wage Base**



- Social Security Administration changes the Wage Base annually.
- Wage Base is the maximum amount of earnings that are subject to social security tax withholding each year.

Year \$	Wage Base \$	age Base   Increase   Maximum Social Security  Employee Share   Maximum Social Security  Employer Share		Maximum Total Contribution to Social Security	
2024	\$168,600	5.2%	\$10,453.20	\$10,453.20	\$20,906.40
2023	\$160,200	9.0%	\$9,932.40	\$9,932.40	\$19,864.80
2022	\$147,000	2.9%	\$9,114.00	\$9,114.00	\$18,228.00
2021	\$142,800	3.7%	\$8,853.60	\$8,853.60	\$17,707.20
2020	\$137,700	3.6%	\$8,537.40	\$8,537.40	\$17,074.80
2019	\$132,900	3.5%	\$8,239.80	\$8,239.80	\$16,479.60
2018	\$128,400	0.9%	\$7,960.80	\$7,960.80	\$15,921.60
2017	\$127,200	7.3%	\$7,886.40	\$7,886.40	\$15,772.80
2016	\$118,500	0.0%	\$7,347.00	\$7,347.00	\$14,694.00
2015	\$118,500	1.3%	\$7,347.00	\$7,347.00	\$14,694.00



## W-2 Wage and Tax Statement Example



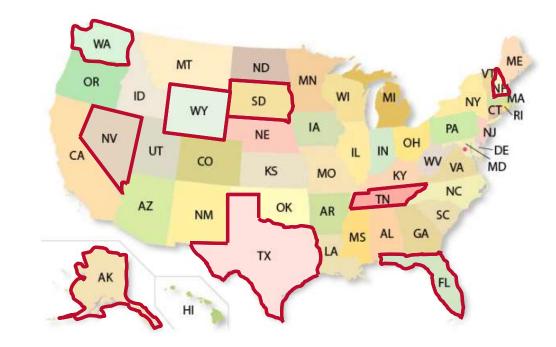
	a Employee's social security number OMB No. 15	This information is being furnis are required to file a tax return may be imposed on you if this	shed to the Internal Revenue Service. If you , a negligence penalty or other sanction income is taxable and you fail to report it.	
	b Employer identification number (EIN)	1 Wages, tips, other compensation	2 Federal income tax withheld	
For 2023, the	Employer's name, address, and ZIP code	3 Social security wages	4 Social security tax withheld	
maximum <b>Social</b>		5 Medicare wages and tips	6 Medicare tax withheld	There is NO see an
Security wages are		7 Social security tips	8 Allocated tips	There is NO cap on <b>Medicare</b> wages.
\$160,200. The	Control number	9	10 Dependent care benefits	
amount reported i	Employee's first name and initial Last name Suff	11 Nonqualified plans	12a See instructions for box 12	
Box 3 should neve		meet makes and an analysis	C g g e	
be higher than the		13 Statutory employee Plan Plan Third-party sick pay	12b	
wage base.		14 Other	12c	
			12d	
	f Employee's address and ZIP code			
	15 State Employer's state ID number 16 State wages, tips, etc. 17 State inco	me tax 18 Local wages, tips, etc.	19 Local income tax 20 Locality name	
	Form W-2 Wage and Tax Statement	Department of	of the Treasury-Internal Revenue Service	
	Copy C—For EMPLOYEE'S RECORDS (See Notice to Employee on the back of Copy B.)			



#### **Nine States Do Not Have Income Tax**



- 1. Alaska.
- 2. Florida.
- 3. Nevada.
- 4. New Hampshire.
- 5. South Dakota.
- 6. Tennessee.
- 7. Texas.
- 8. Washington.
- 9. Wyoming.





#### **Did You Know?**



Employer Identification Number (EIN) / Tax Identification Number.

**EIN** format: 12-3456789

- Business owners need EIN to:
  - Open business bank account(s),
  - Apply for business license(s), and
  - File tax returns.





## **Example**



	a Employee's social security number	OMB No. 1545-0008	This information is being furnis are required to file a tax return may be imposed on you if this	shed to the Internal Reven n, a negligence penalty or o s income is taxable and vo	ue Service. If you other sanction u fail to report it.
Employer identification number (	12-3456789	1 Wa	ages, tips, other compensation	2 Federal income	
Employer's name, address, and	ZIP code	3 Sc	ocial security wages	4 Social security to	ax withheld
-	-c the format or 1	5 Me	edicare wages and tips	6 Medicare tax wit	hheld
ر	number of algins	5t 7 Sc	ocial security tips	8 Allocated tips	
Control number	of the format or to the format or to the format or to the follow-up.	9		10 Dependent care	benefits
Employee's first name and	4011010	Suff. 11 No	onqualified plans	12a See instructions	s for box 12
		49 Sta	tutory Retirement Third-party sick pay	12b	
		<b>14</b> Ott	ner	12c	
				12d	
Employee's address and ZIP cod	le				
5 State Employer's state ID numb	er 16 State wages, tips, etc.	17 State income tax	18 Local wages, tips, etc.	19 Local income tax	20 Locality name
I					
	d Tax Statement		Department of	of the Treasury-Internal	Revenue Servic



#### **Documentation Fraud**



## What Is Documentation Fraud?

■ The falsification, modification or alteration of documents relied upon to make a mortgage decision.





## **Documentation Fraud — Red Flag Examples**



- Altered bank statements.
- Modified or fraudulent documents.
- Misrepresentation of employment.
- Falsified credit scores.
- Omitted information or documentation.



## **Asset Documentation Fraud – Red Flag Examples**



- Down payment source is other than deposits (gift, sale of personal property).
- Applicant's salary does not support savings on deposit.
- Applicant does not use traditional banking institutions.
- Pattern of loyalty to financial institutions other than the subject lender.
- Balances are greater than the FDIC or SIPC insured limits.
- High-asset applicant's investments are not diversified.
- Excessive balance maintained in checking account.
- Dates of bank statements are unusual or out of sequence.
- Recently deposited funds without a plausible paper-trail or explanation.





## **Asset Documentation Fraud – Red Flag Examples**



- Bank account ownership includes unknown parties.
- Balances verified as even dollar amounts.
- Two-month average balance is equal to present balance.
- Source of earnest money is not apparent.
- Earnest money is not reflected in account withdrawals.
- Earnest money is from a bank or account with no relationship to the applicant.
- Bank statements do not reflect deposits consistent with income.
- Reasonableness test: assets appear to be out of line with type of employment, applicant age, education, and/or lifestyle.





## Fraud Example #2, Bank Statement



# **Provided to Underwriting:**

#### CUSTOMER STATEMENT

Fotal Account Balances:		\$27,163.06	\$33,514.0
Grace	xxxxxx8482	\$352.28	\$352.6
Savinge	хххххх3083	\$25,504.25	\$29,101.8
Interest Checking	XXXXXX8776	\$1,306.55	\$4,069.7

## **Actual Re-Verified Bank Statement:**

#### CUSTOMER STATEMENT

Account Name	Account Number	Beginning Balance	Ending Balanc
interest Checking	ххххххх8775	\$1,306.85	\$4,059.7
Savings	xxxxxx3083	815,604.25	819,101.5
Grace	ххххххх8482	\$352.23	5952.5
Yotal Account Balanese:		\$17,103.00	\$23,514,0



## Fraud Example #2, Bank Statement



**Provided to Underwriting:** 

Statement Summary			
Account Number/ Name	Current Balance	Current Dividends	Year-to-Date Dividends
1/ PRIMARY SHARE 8/ TCU SHARE DRAFT	15,036.45	0.00	0.00
PI - TOTAL T	111.78	0.00	0.00
Total	15,148.23	0.00	0.00

**Actual Re-Verified Bank Statement:** 

- Statement Summary			
Account Number/ Name	Current Balance	Current Dividends	Year-to-Date Dividends
1/ PRIMARY SHARE 8/ TOU SHARE DRAFT	36,45 111.78	0.00	0.00
Total	148.23	0.00	0,00



## Fraud Example #3, Bank Statement



# **Provided to Underwriting:**

ASSETS			
Checking & Savings	ACCOUNT	BEGINNING BALANCE THIS PERIOD	ENDING BALANCE THIS PERIOD
Chase Total Checking	000000951759646	\$3,477.07	\$3,755.65
Chase Savings		61,086,55	64,245.32
Total		\$64,563.62	\$68,000.97
TOTAL ASSETS		\$64,563.62	\$68,000.97

## **Actual Re-Verified Bank Statement:**

	Bank Statement Verification								
Account Number	As of Date	Balance							
###############9646	02/08/2023		\$3,755.65						
	Bank Statemer	nt Verification							
Account Number	As of Date	Balance							
######################################	02/08/2023		\$24,245.32						









## Activity One — Spot the RED Flags ■



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3. Signature of len	der		4. Title	4. True			18	0.1	ender s No. (Optional)				
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7. Information To I	Be Verified												
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0.40.000													
V-941													
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CHICAGO, IL	00051												
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Part II - Verif													
10. Deposit Accoun					_								
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Type of Account		Accoun	nt Number	Current Balance		Previous Two Months		Date	Opened				
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11. Loans Outstand	ding To App	Scent(s)				-							
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Loan Number	Date o	f Loan	Original Amount	Current Balance	Month	Monthly/Quarterly)				//Quarterly) Sec		ecured By	Late Payments
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L150													



## **Activity One — Answer**



3. Signature of lens	der		4. Title			5. Date		6. Lend	er's No. (Optional)
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7. Information To E	Be Verified								
Type of Account		Accou	ns in Name of			Account Number	н	Balance	
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o verify this informa	tion and to a	uppry tha	ortgage loan and stated i tender identified above w institution or any of your	ath the information rec	ot that the l	selence on deposit terms 10 through 13.	with you is as Your respons	shown above is solely a	ve. You are authorize matter of courtesy fo
Name and Addres	s of Applican	ni(s)				9. Signature of A	opicants)		
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34 N, WALER									
CHICAGO, IL	60651								
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To Be Comple	ted by De	positor	Υ			7.5			
Part II - Verif	ication of	Depos	itory						
10. Deposit Accoun	nts of Applic	cant(s)							
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	-			6		per			
				6	6	per			
in Item 11 abov	re.)		tion which may be of a						
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17. Please print o	type name		in item 14	18. Phone No.	2 100	T T TAKE	Ar		05/19/2023











## Activity Two — Spot the RED Flags ►



	1-1-1	Part I - Re								
	it will	To (Name are	nd address of empl	loyer)		2. From (N	From (Name and address of lender)			
	its program. It roval as a pros	P.O. Box 2	Deerborn American Tractor Supply P.O. Box 2368 Folsom, CA 95762				Capitol Mortgage, Inc. 170 10th Ave. Sacramento, CA 94162			
	2000	I certify that the	I certify that this verification has been sent directly to the employer and has not passed through the hands of the applicant or any other interested party.							
	on for appr SC, Section	3. Signature of	Lender Ym	a	4. Title Credit Ar	alyist		02/11/2023	Lender's Number (Optional)	
	mongagor y 12 USC, y 9.	I have applied f	or a mortgage loa	n and stated that I a	m now or was for	merly employed by yo	ou. My signatu	re below authorizes ve	rification of this information.	
	as a prospective montager under its program. It was power 27 iff VAL, for 12 USC., Section 1701 etc. sag. of m. n	7. Name and A Larry Deerb	ddress of Applican	t (include employee			8. Sign	ature of Applicant Attached		
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	proper n		☐ Annual	☐ Hourly		Pay Grade		14. If Over	time or Bonus is Applicable, continuance Likely?	
	whether informat info		☐ Monthly	Other (Spe	cify)	Type	Monthly A			
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1	D Sound of	26. Signature of	Employer		27.	Title (Please print or ty)	pe)		28. Date	
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(CV)	The HUE	29. Print or type	name signed in Iter	n 26	30.	Phone No.			02/10/2023	



#### **Activity Two — Answer**



Part I - Request Employer completed VOEs are rare. worke montpagor under its program. It will your application for approval as a prospec-VA); by 12 USC, Section 1701 et. sig. (if Deerborn American Tractor Supply Capitol Mortgage, Inc. Question handwritten/electronically 170 10th Ave. P.O. Box 2368 Folsom, CA 95762 Sacramento, CA 94162 signed VOES obtained by the lender certify that this verification has been sent directly to the employer and has not passed through the hands of the applicant or any other interested party. signed NUES obtained by the lender signed NUES obtained by the employer for from employers. Does the employer for hormally use a third-party vendor for verifications of employment? Credit Analyist 02/11/2023 n & Forward directly to employer named in item 3. Complete Part IV and return directly to lender named in item 2. to be transmitted through the applicant or any other party See Attached 27 Sunset Ave. Sacramento, CA 94582 Part II - Verification of Present Employment 11. Probability of Continued Employment 02/06/2023 Manager 13. For Military Personnel Only Request for Verification of Employment 14. If Overtime or Bonus is Applicable, Is Its Continuance Likely? ☐ Monthly Other (Specify) Type 1,403.89 Base Pay 12B. Gross Earnings 16. Date of applicant's next pay increase Flight or Hazard 110,000.00 \$ 156,000.00 Base Pay 02/06/2023 Pro Pay 18. Date of applicant's last pay increase 02/06/2022 s 110,000.00 s 156,000.00 Fannie Mae Part III - Verification of Previous Employment 23. Salary/Wage at Termination Per (Year) (Month) (Week) Overtime 25. Position Held Part IV — Authorized Signature - Federal statutes provide severe penalties for any fraud, intentional misrepresentation, or criminal connivance or conspiracy purposed to influence the issuance of any guaranty or insurance by the VA Secretary, the U.S.D.A., FmHA/FHA Commissioner, or the HUD/CPD Assistant Secretary. 26. Signature of Employe 27. Title (Please print or type Eden Gmins HR Specialist 29. Print or type name signed in Item 26. 30. Phone No





02/10/2023







## Activity Three — Spot the RED Flags



Check No.	Emp	No.	Employe	Employee Name		The control of the state of the		State Ex M		MS		Period Ending			
00393	1222		Craig Johnson		026-28-493			0	0			09-15-2023			
Earnings								·							
Description	Но	urs	Earn	nings	Description	Amo	ount	Y.T.	D.		Description	Amo	ount	Y.T.D	
HOURLY	40	00	700	00	F.I.T F.I.C.A STATE CITY OTHER	139 58 42	82 78 04	3076 1249 924	04 16 88						
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Mechanical E	ngine	ering	Inc. 10 Le	eigh Place	, Boston MA									
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00393	1222	2	Craig Jo	Craig Johnson		37 0		0	0 S		0:	9-15-2023		
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Current Total	40	00	700	00	Total Deductions	238	64							
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## **Activity Three** — **Answer**



Check No.	Emp	No.	Employe	ee Name	Soc Sec No	Soc Sec No. Fe		State	Ex	MS S		Period En	ding	
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Current	40	00	700	00	Total	238	64							
Total					Deductions									
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Mechanical E	ngine	ering	Inc. 10 Le	eigh Place	, Boston MA								
Check No.	Emp No. Employee Name		Soc Sec No.		Fed Ex State E		Ex	MS		Period Ending			
00393	1222		Craig Jo	hnson	026-28-493	026-28-4937 0		0		S		09-15-2023	
Earnings													
Description	Но	urs	Earı	nings	Description	An	ount	Y.T.	D.	Des	cription	Amount	Y.T.D
HOURLY	40	00	700	00	F.I.T F.I.C.A STATE CITY OTHER	139 58 42	78	3215 1305 966	86 94 92				
Current Total	40	00	700	00	Total Deductions	238	64						
Year To Date	Earnin	ngs	16100	00	Net Pay			461	36	Deta	ch and r	etain this state	ment











## Activity Four — Spot the RED Flags



W-2 Wage and Statemen	d Tax				the Treasury –	Internal Revenue Service				
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f Employee's address and ZIP cod	θ				Jone					
					12d					
oma beach, VA 2			1, 000	**************************************	900	ľ				
Virginia Beach, VA 2	3454		14 Oth		12c	3000.10				
18 Haven Place			13 State	story Retirement Third-part loyee plan sick pay	9 12b 9 DD	9080.40				
Stacey Cover			40 State	story Retirement Third-part	å D	1136.08				
e Employee's first name and initial	Last name	11 No	nqualified plans	0	nstructions for box 12					
			af	23-d2fe-a1dd-924	<u> </u>					
d Control number		9 Ver	ification code	10 Dependent care benefits						
Greensboro, NC 274	401	7 Soc	cial security tips	8 Allocated tips						
788 East 46 <sup>th</sup> Street			135062.59		1958.41					
Hurricane Hunters L	LC	5 Me	dicare wages and tips	6 Medic	are tax withheld					
c Employer's name, address, and		3 500	ial security wages 133926.51	4 Social	security tax withheld 7960.80					
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b Employer identification number (	EIN)		1 Wag	ges, tips, other compensation	2 Feder	2 Federal income tax withheld				
	a Employee's social security number 222-11-1243	OMB No. 154	3-0006	are required to file a tax retu may be imposed on you if th	xable and you fail to report it.					



## **Activity Four — Answer**



		e's social security number 2-11-1243	OMB No. 154	may be imposed on you if this income is taxable and you rall to repor							
<ul> <li>Employer identification numb</li> </ul>	er (EIN)			1 Wa	ges, tips, other compe	nsation	2 Federal income tax withheld				
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Types of Fraud (Continued)



### **Liabilities Fraud**



## What Is Liabilities Fraud?

Undisclosed

Disclosed







### **Liabilities Fraud Example**



- Car loan for XYZ Company is on the credit report.
- Borrower did not disclose XYZ Company car loan on the loan application.
- When you add the undisclosed XY Company car loan liability causing the ratios to increase.

IMPORTANT!

The borrower may no longer qualify after adding the undisclosed debt.





## Liabilities Fraud — Red Flag Examples



- Liabilities are shown on the credit report that are not on the mortgage application.
- Length of established liabilities shown on credit report is not consistent with the applicant's age.
- Liability patterns shown on the credit report are inconsistent with income and lifestyle.
- All tradelines opened at the same time.
- Significant liability differences between original and new or supplemental credit reports.
- Recent credit inquiries by non-mortgage loan companies, student loan lenders, auto loan finance companies, etc.
- Deposits to bank accounts that appear to be loan proceeds from another financial institution.
- Undisclosed, recurring payments on bank statements, such as IRS payments or family support payments.





## **Occupancy Fraud**



## What Is Occupancy Fraud?

 A borrower obtains a mortgage for a second home or an investment property, but states on the loan application that the property will be their primary residence.

Borrowers typically do this for a Borrowers typically do this for a lower interest rate and/or to lower lowe





## **Occupancy Fraud**



## What Is Reverse Occupancy Fraud?

- A borrower claims to use a property as an investment to generate more qualifying income.
- Can occur when occupancy is primary residence or second home.
- Common characteristics:
  - Subject property is sold as an investment property.
  - Borrowers are first-time homebuyers with minimal or no established credit.
  - Borrowers have low income but significant assets.
  - Borrowers present "rent-free" letters stating they are not paying rent to live in their primary residence.





## **Occupancy Fraud Example**



- Loan application indicates subject property occupancy is primary residence.
- Borrower indicates current residence will be used as a rental.
- Subject property is located on same street as borrower's three other investment properties.

IMPORTANT!

If it doesn't make sense,

question it.





## Occupancy Fraud — Red Flag Examples



#### **Purchase Transactions**

- Real estate is listed on application, yet the applicant is a renter.
- Applicant intends to lease current residence.
- Applicant is downgrading from a larger or more expensive house.
- Sales contract is subject to an existing lease.
- Occupancy affidavits reflect applicant does not intend to occupy.
- New homeowner's insurance declarations page is for a rental property.
- Subject property is located on the same street as the borrower's three other investment properties.





## Occupancy Fraud — Red Flag Examples



#### **Refinance Transactions**

- Rental property listed on the application is more expensive than subject property.
- Different mailing addresses on applicant's bank statements, pay advices, etc.
- Different addresses reported on credit report.
- Appraisal reflects vacant or tenant occupancy.
- Occupancy affidavits reflect applicant does not intend to occupy.





## **Identity Theft**







## **Identity Theft**



## What Is Identity Theft?

Borrower identity theft is the act of unlawfully using one or more pieces of another individual's personal identifying information to obtain a mortgage.

Examples:

1. Borrower with negative credit history

1. Borrower with negative credit history

1. Borrower with negative credit history

2. Person starts receiving collection calls

2. Person starts receiving their personal info.

2. Person starts reports discovers someone has

2. Person starts reports discovers someone info.

2. Person starts reports discovers personal info.

2. Person starts reports discovers someone has

2. Person starts reports discovers personal info.





# **Identity Theft**



# What Can Identity Theft Look Like?

#### **Account Takeover:**

- Court records.
- Quitclaim.
- Assumes identity.
- Refinance.

#### **Application:**

- True name.
- Credit application.





## Identify Theft — Red Flag Examples



- A fraud alert, notification or warning, included with a consumer report/credit report.
- Credit freeze notice in response to request for a consumer report/credit report.
- Address discrepancy notice received from consumer/credit reporting agency.
- Unusual activity in credit report, unlike historical pattern of activity.
- Forged or altered identification documents.
- Personal description, birthdate, name, address, signature does not match information on other documents.
- Social Security Number is not yet issued, on the SSA Death Master File, belongs to someone else, or is otherwise invalid.
- Mail sent to borrower repeatedly returned as undeliverable.
- Notice from borrower, lender, or other entity of possible identity theft.





# What Is Appraisal Fraud?

- Appraisal fraud is when a property's appraisal is over or understated.
- If overstated, money can be obtained:
  - By borrower with cash-out refinance.
  - By seller in purchase transaction.
- If understated:
  - Allows borrower to a lower price on a foreclosed home.























# Appraisal Fraud — Red Flag Examples



- "For Rent" sign appears in photographs.
- Weather conditions in photos inconsistent with the date of appraisal.
- Owner is someone other than the seller shown on the sales contact.
- Purchase price is substantially lower or higher than the predominant market value.
- Dated sales are used as comparable sales.
- Appraisal dated before sale contract.
- Significant appreciation in a short period of time.
- Comparable sales do not bracket the subject's adjusted value.
- Comparable properties are a significant distance from the subject.
- Address reflected in the photos does not match the property address.





### **Appraiser Identify Theft**



#### **Fannie Mae Fraud Alert:**

- Significant number of loans involving appraisals were completed by an unlicensed appraiser unlawfully using the identities of other actively licensed appraisers.
  - Identified loans were originated between 2021-2023.
  - No evidence that the appraisers whose identities were used were aware of or involved in the activity.





## Appraiser Identify Theft — Red Flag Examples



- The unlicensed appraiser's name and signature are not found in any capacity within the appraisals (or loan files).
- The company name, phone number, and address listed under "contact information" on page six of Form 1004 will be different from that of the licensed appraiser.
- Email contact information reflects a name other than the name of the appraiser who is listed as having performed the appraisal.
- The signatures of the "victim" appraisers appear forged and/or cut and pasted to the identified appraisals.
- Appraisal fees for the appraisals were paid with proceeds going directly to the mailing address of the unlicensed appraiser, not to the address of the purported appraisers.





### **Appraiser Identify Theft** — What Can Lenders Do?



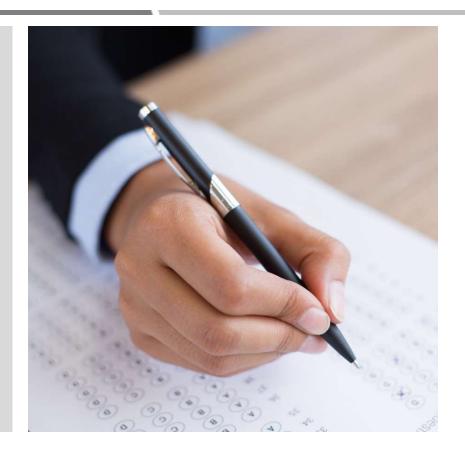
- Perform thorough due diligence when retaining services of appraisers and other outside vendors.
- Utilize all available public records and licensing agencies in determining the validity of third-party documentation (including addresses) within loan files.
- Know your third-party originators/brokers.
- Be "fraud smart" by educating your staff.
- Establish a zero-tolerance fraud policy.
- Share information within your organization.
- If the loan doesn't make sense, don't do it!
- Report any suspicious activity through established channels.



# **Knowledge Check Three**



- Is the following True or False?
  - Reverse Occupancy occurs when a borrower claims that they will use a property as an investment in order to generate more qualifying income.





# **Check Your Understanding Three**



- The correct answer is *True*.
  - Reverse Occupancy occurs when a borrower claims that they will use a property as an investment in order to generate more qualifying income.





# **Fraud Players**













### **Fraud Schemes**







### **Straw Buyers**



# What Are Straw Buyers?

- Individuals (loan applicants) working with fraud perpetrators to obtain mortgages by disguising the true buyer or the true nature of the transaction.
- Straw buyers have no intention of occupying the home.





### **Straw Buyers**



# Why Would Someone Use a Straw Buyer?

- No intention of taking responsibility for the property or mortgage obligation.
- True purchaser:
  - Does not enough have income/assets to qualify.
  - Purchased many properties and over-extended assets.
  - Has liens/collectors seeking bank assets.
  - Using illegally obtained funds.
  - Is unqualified to buy U.S. property (e.g., U.S. blocked persons list).



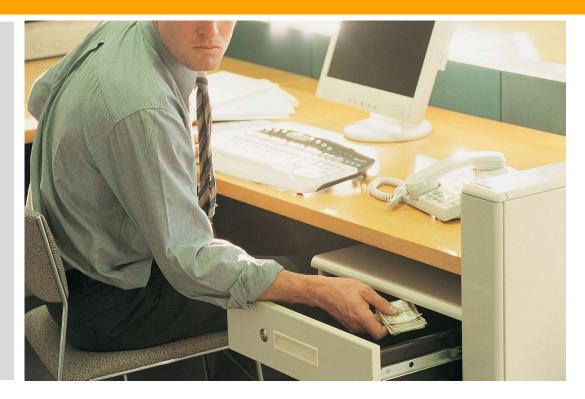


# **Straw Buyers**



# Why Would Someone Be a Straw Buyer?

- Offered payment for use of their name and credit.
- Income and assets are also often misrepresented.





## Straw Buyer – Red Flag Examples



- Mortgage payments are made by an entity other than the borrower.
- The loan is usually an early payment default.
- First-time home buyer with a substantial increase in housing expense.
- Buyer does not intend to occupy (due to unrealistic commute, size, or condition of property, etc.).
- No real estate agent is employed (non-arm's length transaction).
- Power of attorney may be used.
- "Boiler plate" contract with limited insertions not reflective of a true negotiation.
- Income, savings, and/or credit patterns are inconsistent with the applicant's overall profile.
- High loan-to-value (LTV) ratio, limited reserves, and/or seller-paid concessions.
- Inconsistent signatures found throughout the file.
- Use of gift funds for down payment and/or closing costs, minimum borrower contribution.
- Title to the property is transferred after the sale closes.





#### **Fraud Schemes**



# What is a Fraudulent Property Flip?

 A property is purchased and resold quickly at an artificially inflated price, using a fraudulently inflated appraisal.





## Property Flip – Red Flag Examples



- Flips typically involve straw buyers (refer to "Straw Buyer Characteristics" section).
- Flips sometimes involve naïve purchasers.
- Seller very recently acquired title or is acquiring title concurrent with the subject transaction.
- No real estate agent is employed (non-arm's length transaction).
- Property was recently in foreclosure or acquired at real estate owned (REO) sale at low sales price.
- The appraised value is fraudulently inflated.
- The appraiser frequently uses other property flips as comparables (examine comparable properties' sales histories).
- Owner listed on appraisal and/or title may not match the seller on the sales contract.
- Refinance transaction used to pay off private short-term financing.



# **Example: Fraudulent Property Flipping**











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