



drivers' licences – a check that costs only \$2. You can access the online Driver Licence Check at [www.dlcheck.rus.mto.gov.on.ca/Scripts/OrderForm.asp](http://www.dlcheck.rus.mto.gov.on.ca/Scripts/OrderForm.asp).

### 3. HELP US MINIMIZE FRAUD LOSSES IN THE INSURANCE PROGRAM: CALL US!

If you suspect you have completed or are acting on a matter that, based on this information, causes you concern, immediately call LawPRO at 1-800-410-1013 (416-598-5899). If the matter and/or client raises some questions in your mind, talk to us about those concerns. Both our claims and risk management staff are available to discuss these issues with you and possibly guide you in asking more questions or seeking additional information.

Even if you have stopped acting on a matter that you suspect involved fraud, let us know what you know (respecting relevant confidentiality obligations). You may think yours is an isolated

case, but as we saw with the recent attempted frauds, these schemes often target multiple lawyers. By alerting us to what is happening we can alert others – and together we can help avoid huge fraud losses in the insurance program.

Remember too that every LawPRO claim comes with a cost: Being vigilant about matters you do act on, and being proactive in reporting concerns and potential frauds to LawPRO, helps you and others avoid potentially huge losses in your trust account as well as deductible costs and the time and trouble of having to deal with a claim matter.

### 4. PRESERVE THE EVIDENCE

If you have or come into the possession of a fraudulent cheque or bank draft, carefully place it in an envelope so that an attempt to recover finger prints from it can be made.

## Whitelist LAWPRO

### in your Spam filter to ensure you don't miss important messages

Our recent e-mail fraud alerts apparently helped several lawyers avoid being victims of the commercial loan frauds.

However, two of the lawyers who called us didn't get our warning messages because their spam filter caught our e-blasts. One happened to call us for advice on how to handle a suspicious transaction. The other just happened to come across our e-blast when he checked his spam filter two days after we sent the second warning message.

The lesson is simple and clear: Spam filters aren't perfect. They sometimes catch legitimate messages – these are called *false positives*.

The solution is also simple: In your spam filter, please *whitelist* LawPRO, the Law Society and anyone else that you really need or want to get e-mail messages from. Once an e-mail address is "whitelisted" in your spam filter, it will never be stopped. The opposite to whitelisting is "blacklisting" which prompts your spam filter to always reject a message.

On a regular basis please check your spam filter for messages that it should not have caught. Doing this could help you avoid a number of things, including a malpractice claim, a Law Society complaint, or an unhappy client who didn't hear back from you because you didn't get a message they sent.

**FRAUD**  
How to avoid becoming its next victim

Fraud is a real and growing problem for all law firms and their staff. Each year, fraudsters "trick" dozens of law clerks and lawyers, young and old, in practices large and small, into helping make fraud happen.

Fraudsters come in all shapes and sizes. They could be the promising new "clients" who just walked in off the street. Or a third party you never do get to meet. Or a member of an organized crime syndicate who is laundering money through your trust account. Or even a colleague whom you'd never suspect.

And it's not just real estate firms that are being targeted. Litigation firms, firms specializing in corporate commercial work, wills and estates lawyers and others also are frequent targets.

How can you protect yourself and the firm? Take some time to read this information on fraud. It explains the most common fraud scenarios and how to spot them.

LawPRO

## Keep this checklist close by

To help lawyers stay alert to the warning signs of fraud, LawPRO has produced a handy reference guide: The four-page fact sheet describes how the typical fraud scams we have seen work and the red flags for which to be on the look out for. It also provides handy tips to help you avoid being victimized.

Download a copy at [www.practicepro.ca/fraud](http://www.practicepro.ca/fraud) or contact practicePRO for a print copy at 416-598-5863.