

The Bureau of Real Estate Appraisers has received inquiries from appraisers about an email stating a complaint has been filed against your practice. This is a phishing scheme to scare the recipient into clicking on the link, and it may download a file with malicious code. We are investigating this matter.

We advise you to remove the item from your computer if you have received one of these emails. We have included an example of the email below. This was forwarded to us by an appraiser. The email is not from the Department of Consumer Affairs and it is not from the Bureau of Real Estate Appraisers.

The clues that this email is bogus is the subject "Department of Consumers Affairs" (the Department of Consumer Affairs does not contain an 's' on Consumer) and also, the From email address is not [.ca.gov](mailto:ca.gov), instead it is [outlook.com](mailto:outlook.com).

Correspondence from the Bureau of Real Estate Appraisers or the Department of Consumer Affairs is made on official letterhead or is sent from an email address ending in "[ca.gov](mailto:ca.gov)". You may confirm correspondence is from the Bureau of Real Estate Appraisers or the Department of Consumer Affairs by calling our office at (916) 552-9000.

Here is a link to information and strategies to defend against spear phishing attacks. <http://staysafeonline.org/stay-safe-online/keep-a-clean-machine/spam-and-phishing>