



# Back to school

## RENTAL SCAM



### HOOKING

- **Advertisements** are published for studios or apartments for rent on several **online platforms**.
- You respond to the ad but the advertiser pretends **he/she is not able to show you the accommodation** according to various pretexts (living abroad for example).



### ADVANCE OF CHARGES

- The authors ask you to **pay an advance** (deposit, first rent) to set the accommodation aside and give you confidence with the promise of a visit.
- Payment is made by **bank transfer in Switzerland or abroad** whilst **the accommodation does not exist** or is copied from another website.



### HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF?



Check that the accommodation's **address** does exist



Contact the **property management** to ensure that the rental accommodation is indeed available and give priority to **physical meeting**



Check if this announcement exists on other websites



Contact the advertiser **via phone** and not via online applications (Messenger, Google, WhatsApp, etc.)



**Never send identity documents** by email or other digital media



**Use common sense!**



### YOU ARE A VICTIM

- Report the suspicious announcement to the platform owner
- Ask your bank to block and return the funds
- File a criminal complaint (bring all the necessary documents such as exchanged messages, contract, etc.).

#### CONTACT

www.votrepolice.ch  
021 644 44 44



Your police