



Special Press Release

May 13, 2013

Ravalli County Sheriff Chris Hoffman advises local citizens to be aware of a scam involving houses for rent on Craigslist. A report was taken by the Ravalli County Sheriff's Office from a resident who had a house listed for sale. The seller then discovered that it was being posted for rent on Craigslist by a person unknown.

The person (suspect) on Craigslist used information and photos of the victim's property while offering to rent the house for \$900 a month with a required deposit of \$600. The person (suspect) also cautioned prospective renters not to contact the listing real estate company about the rental offer.

The suspect who was posting the house for rent went by the name of "Gary Mills" with the email, homescool500@yahoo.com.

Mills has responded by email to those inquiring about the house for rent advising that he has traveled to West Africa and plans to be there for 2 or more years. Mills advises that he is affiliated with a program called, "Family Life and HIV Education and the HIV Prevention for Rural Youth Program."

Sheriff Hoffman urges anyone suspicious about rental properties to contact property management and real estate companies if there is a question/concern regarding the validity of such a posting.