



# CyberAngels

A program of Guardian Angels

**keeping it safe**

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## Online Auctions

According to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), online auction disputes constituted 45% of the almost 207,000 complaints recorded last year. Complaints range from non-delivery of purchased items, misrepresentation of goods for sale, and non-payment by purchasers. Additionally, stolen goods are sometimes laundered on online auction sites, and you - as the purchaser - may not find out for weeks or even months.

Although only a small percentage of the total online auction transactions involve fraud, it is a very real risk. There are steps, however, that you can take to reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim: