

# Fraud Disguised as Opportunity

## Investment Scams

In investment scams, fraudsters offer fake opportunities in stocks, bonds, or business ventures that promise unusually high or guaranteed returns. They often use professional-looking websites, documents, or references to appear legitimate. Some scammers show small initial "returns" to encourage victims to invest larger amounts over time. The ultimate goal is to steal money and disappear before the victim realizes the fraud.

### RED FLAGS

- Promises of guaranteed or unusually high returns with little or no risk.
- Pressure to invest quickly or keep the opportunity secret.
- Requests for payment through wire transfers, cryptocurrency, or other irreversible methods.

### BE SCAM SMART

- Verify that any investment is registered and licensed with official regulatory bodies.
- Do not make investments based solely on unsolicited calls, emails, or social media messages.
- Consult a trusted financial advisor or family member before making any investment decisions.

## Cryptocurrency Scams

In cryptocurrency scams, fraudsters promote fake crypto investments, exchanges, or trading platforms promising fast profits. They may create fake dashboards or accounts showing fabricated returns to build trust. Victims are encouraged to "reinvest" larger amounts, which are then stolen. The scam often relies on irreversible payment methods like crypto transfers, making recovery difficult.

### RED FLAGS

- Pressure to invest quickly or reinvest "profits" before withdrawing.
- Claims of guaranteed or unusually high returns.
- Requests for payment using cryptocurrency or untraceable methods.

### BE SCAM SMART

- Research the legitimacy of any cryptocurrency platform before investing.
- Be skeptical of promises of guaranteed profits or high returns with low risk.
- Never send crypto to someone you do not know personally or cannot verify.



## Where to Report a Suspected Scam

- Investment or crypto scams (IC3): [complaint.ic3.gov](https://complaint.ic3.gov)
- General fraud (FTC): [reportfraud.ftc.gov](https://reportfraud.ftc.gov)
- FINRA Securities Helpline for Seniors: [1-844-574-3577](tel:1-844-574-3577)
- Florida Office of Inspector General: [1-866-9-NO-SCAM](https://1-866-9-NO-SCAM.legacy.myfloridalegal.com/contact.nsf/contact?Open&Section=Citizen_Services)  
[legacy.myfloridalegal.com/contact.nsf/contact?Open&Section=Citizen\\_Services](https://legacy.myfloridalegal.com/contact.nsf/contact?Open&Section=Citizen_Services)
- The U.S Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General: [1-800-447-8477](https://1-800-447-8477.oirg.hhs.gov/fraud/report-fraud)  
[oirg.hhs.gov/fraud/report-fraud](https://oirg.hhs.gov/fraud/report-fraud)

