

RED FLAGS

of INVESTMENT

FRAUD *checklist*

Can you spot the warning signs of investment fraud?

Protect your investments by watching out for these red flags:

- █ Unlicensed investment professionals
- █ Aggressive sellers who may provide exaggerated or false credentials
- █ Offers that sound “too good to be true”
- █ Risk-free investment opportunities
- █ Promises of great wealth and guaranteed returns
- █ “Everyone is buying it” pitches
- █ Pressure to invest right now
- █ Over-the-top, sensational pitches that may have fake testimonials
- █ Unsolicited pitches seeking to obtain your personal information
- █ Asked to pay for investments by credit card, gift card, or wiring money abroad or to a personal account

Three ways to avoid fraud:

- █ Ask questions
- █ Research **every** investment opportunity thoroughly **before** you invest
- █ Conduct a background check on any investment professional at [Investor.gov](https://www.investor.gov)



SEC

OFFICE of INVESTOR
EDUCATION and ADVOCACY

Before You Invest, [Investor.gov](https://www.investor.gov)