

## Smart Tips for Safe Investing

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Whether you have a little money or a lot, growing your nest egg through investments can be quite appealing. But before you hand over your hard earned dollars, be sure to research the investment offer. Otherwise, you may become victim of fraud. Follow these 8 tips to help avoid getting caught in an investment scam.

- 1. Don't believe no-risk claims.** There is always a risk in investments, so don't let anyone tell you otherwise. Know the risk before you invest.
- 2. Beware of get-rich-quick promises.** No one can guarantee how an investment will perform. And, often, the investments that promise the quickest and highest pay-off are also the most risky.
- 3. Get the details in writing.** Legitimate companies will be happy to give you all of the information you need to make an informed decision.
- 4. Don't agree with anything on the spot.** Pressure to act quickly is a red-flag for fraud.
- 5. Understand your investments.** Do your homework before you invest. Research and learn the difference between different types of investments so you know the risk associated with each and can determine which method makes you most comfortable.
- 6. Don't act on testimonials from strangers.** Con artists may recruit strangers to give testimonials to lure you into a scam. Seek out opinions from your close friends and family who you trust.
- 7. Steer clear of "offshore investments."** Offshore investments are often promoted as a way to avoid taxes. In reality, you are still liable for taxes and the investments are often very risky.
- 8. Be cautious about e-mails asking for you to invest.** If you haven't requested the e-mail, it may be part of an investment scam. If it comes from a business you trust, call the number you have on file for that company and confirm that the investment opportunity is legitimate.

### **Use a professional you can trust**

As an FCCU member, you have trusted financial planning services available to you. Our MEMBERS Financial Services representative, Frank Feng, has the knowledge, experience and expertise to help you pursue your goals. And best of all, he has your best interests at heart. To learn more or make an appointment, call Frank at 209.948-6024, ext. 50140, or send an e-mail to Frank.Feng@cunamutual.com.

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