

# FRAUD AMONG FRIENDS

BE FRAUD AWARE



A program of the BC Securities Commission

## WARNING SIGNS:

The con artist may tell you the investment is exclusive and available only to 'those in the know'.

*Real investments are not kept quiet or secret.*

A new member of your group who begins talking about wealth-building investments is someone to watch.

*Do a background check on this individual and ask them pointed questions.*

The fraudster will try to rush you into making a decision.

*If someone is pressuring you to make a decision, be suspicious. It's okay to say 'no'.*

A scam artist will discourage you from seeking independent advice.

*Don't listen. Take the time to seek professional advice from a neutral, outside expert.*

Scam artists use your ethnicity, religion, occupation, or something else they claim to have in common with you to gain your trust. *Ask the same questions you would ask if the person didn't share your religion, culture, or job.*



## IS IT HAPPENING TO SOMEONE YOU KNOW?

If you think a friend or family member is the target of investment fraud, consider these questions:

- Is there a new person in their life they depend on for advice?
- Do they mention they are helping out a friend or caregiver?
- Are they suddenly not spending money or going out anymore?
- Are they ignoring family or avoiding friends?
- Are they failing to take care of themselves or the upkeep of their home?

The answers to these questions may point back to fraud. Talk to your family and friends and help them report investment fraud.

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