

Spot Investment Scams Checklist:

BC SECURITIES
COMMISSION



FRIENDS & FAMILY

Be suspicious

Investments described as exclusive or only offered to a particular group often turn out to be scams.

Watch out for investments or advisors who exploit a personal connection

Research backgrounds and credentials, and understand the investment.

Beware of referrals from “trusted” members within your group

They could have been selected by the scam artists as early influencers.

Don't be drawn in by promises of high returns and low risk

Returns may come from someone else's initial investment and could disappear when there are no new investors.

Get a prospectus or other written information

Ask for detailed written materials outlining the nature of the investment, the risks involved, financial statements, and any withdrawal or trading restrictions.

Do your homework

Just because an investment or company has a history, doesn't mean there is no risk.

Check out the promoter and the investment

Search the web and use the British Columbia Securities Commission website (InvestRight.org) or call to check on the company or individual selling the investment. Some investment scams take time to get off the ground.

Consult with a person independent of the deal

Paying an independent lawyer, accountant, or financial advisor may save you a lot of money down the road if the investment turns out to be a scam.

REPORT SUSPICIOUS INVESTMENT ACTIVITY

Your care and attention may save a friend, family member or member of your community from falling victim to an investment scam.

You can call or e-mail the BC Securities Commission to find out more.

Telephone:
604-899-6854
1-800-373-6393

Email:
inquiries@bcsc.bc.ca

Report online:
www.InvestRight.org