

How to spot a

CON ARTIST



Recognize the con and the artist before giving them your money.

“I’m here for you.”

Con artists will coincidentally have similar interests, be your friend, do favors – and then take your investment money.

“Let me worry about the details of the deal.”

They will push confusing financial products, but assure you it’s a good investment.

“Everyone is investing in this, why aren’t you?”

Con artists will find any insecurity or fear you have and use it to pressure you to invest.

“This is guaranteed to make you rich.”

Every investment has risk and is not guaranteed to make money.

“I have another deal for you.”

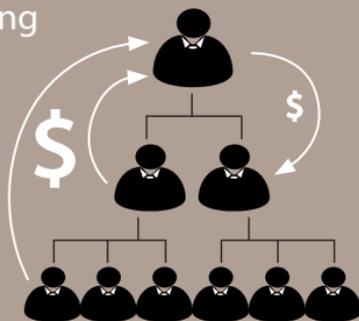
Con artists will pretend the original investment is doing well to entice you to invest in another scheme.

Hint: It may be part of a Ponzi scheme.



The Ponzi scheme

The scheme can be an investment in anything from new products to gold, but they all involve the seller or promoter paying initial investors from the funds of later investors. This gives the first investor confidence and motivates others to invest.



Remember:

- Generally, anyone selling an investment in Oregon must have a securities license. To check a license for free, visit brokercheck.finra.org.
- If the investment or security sounds too good to be true, call us at 888-877-4894 (toll-free).
- You must receive written information on the investment or the business, including financial background and the risks involved. Read it carefully. Keep your documents for your records.

If you cannot explain the investment, it's not for you.

If you think you are involved in a situation that might be fraud, contact:

Oregon Division of Financial Regulation

888-877-4894 (toll-free)

Website: dfr.oregon.gov

Email: dfr.financialserviceshelp@oregon.gov

