



## Avoiding Investment Scams

Investing based on the advice of people you only know online is dangerous.

Investment scammers spend weeks or months cultivating online friendships with people before they suggest a fake investment. The illusion of friendship makes it harder for victims to recognize a scam.

Scammers working through social media may:

- Intentionally send you a harmless sounding “wrong person” text or message. If you respond, they strike up a conversation.
- Connect with you on social media sites, then draw you into investment groups where you meet other “friends” who promote nonexistent crypto or other investments.
- Use A.I. to alter video of famous people so they appear to endorse an investment.
- Steer you to fake apps or trading platforms rigged to show your investment growing long after the scammer stole your money.

Investment scams can result in high losses. Protect yourself:

- Never respond to texts or messages from strangers.
- Don’t share info about your personal finances with people you’ve only met online.
- Learn how to research an investment and spot scams at [investor.gov](https://investor.gov) and [finra.org](https://finra.org).

Need help? Contact the Cuyahoga County’s Scam Squad at 216-443-7226 or online at [cuyahogacounty.gov/scamsquad](https://cuyahogacounty.gov/scamsquad).



Sign up to receive free Scam Squad Alerts by phone, text or email.

Visit [readynotify.us](https://readynotify.us) or call 216-443-7035 to get help signing up.