

DON'T LET THEM GET THEIR HOOKS INTO YOU.

If a financial professional tries to sell you an investment using any of these ploys, it could be a fraud. Don't take the bait. Learn more at SmartCheck.gov.



THE LINES FRAUDSTERS USE:

- › High rate of return or guarantee
- › Limited time
- › Little or no risk
- › Exclusive offer just for certain people
- › Special discount or other "favor"
- › Drop names of others you know who have already invested



HOW THEY REEL PEOPLE IN:

- › Infiltrate groups of people who know and trust each other
- › Use unsuspecting group members to talk up the "opportunity"
- › Exploit friendship/trust, knowing some are likely to rely on a recommendation instead of closely examining the investment

THE LURE OF "EARLY RETURNS":

- › Money from later investors is used to pay early investors, making the scheme seem legitimate and profitable
- › The scheme continues until the pool of new investors dries up or large numbers of investors ask to cash out
- › Then, the unfortunate investors at the end are left high and dry



RUN A CHECK: KNOW YOUR PRO

Before you invest, and at least once per year, ensure your financial professionals are properly registered and in good standing. SmartCheck.gov has free tools to check backgrounds and help you protect yourself from fraud.

This Infographic was prepared for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.