



7 STEPS TO **PROTECT** YOURSELF FROM **SCAMS!**



INVESTMENT
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HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN A SITUATION WHERE A COMPANY HAS ASKED YOU TO GIVE THEM MONEY TO INVEST AND YOU ARE GUARANTEED TO MAKE MONEY BACK OR IF YOU INVEST A SMALL AMOUNT YOU'LL MAKE A BIGGER PROFIT? **THIS IS A SCAM.**

WE ARE GOING TO TAKE YOU THROUGH 7 STEPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SCAMS AND IDENTIFY LEGITIMATE COMPANIES:

1 LEGITIMATE COMPANY WEBSITE



- Go on their website and search through the information provided. If they are making outrageous claims or guaranteeing success, intended to cloud your judgement and pull you in, that is your first sign. If it seems too good to be true, it is.
- Don't just rely on the information on the website, make sure you talk to a minimum of three people who are willing to give you honest information about what it was like to deal with the company – warts and all.
- Make sure they have legitimate contact details, for example, make sure the email address includes their company name and that if they say they are based in a certain country, that their number has the correct area number.

2 “GUARANTEED PROFITS”



- A big red flag is if you see the word 'guaranteed' on the website. Finance regulatory bodies do not like companies guaranteeing anything when it comes to finance. If they are a legitimate business they would be following this rule, therefore this would indicate the company is not genuine.

3 SPELLING OR GRAMMAR MISTAKES



- A quick way of establishing a scam is if you see more than 3 spelling or grammatical errors on a website. Multiple errors could indicate, that although it says, for example, the company is UK based or run by UK company, they are not in fact based there. If you think they are lying about the country they are based in, do not send them money!

LAST YEAR VICTIMS
LOST AN AVERAGE OF

£45,242

WITH FRAUDSTERS IMITATING
GENUINE INVESTMENT FIRMS

4 DO YOUR RESEARCH



- If the company says that is a 'Limited Company' etc, go to the Regulatory body. For example, in the UK you can visit www.gov.uk/government/organisations/companies-house and look up the company. It will list all of the company's information which you can cross check against what they have on their website. Make sure everything matches before investing any money with the company.

A big red flag is if the company contacts you via platforms such as WhatsApp, Telegram or social media requesting money. If they are properly regulated, this is not how they would conducting business.

- You should search for 'Is this a scam' on a search engine, to see if others have been drawn in by this company.

Also, call the company and ask for them to send proof of their results. We would recommend at least a year's worth of results.

When conducting your research you should be looking for a reason not to invest. If you go in looking for a reason you could ignore all of the red flags and potentially be scammed.

5 SOCIAL PROOF



- Does the company have customer testimonials on their website? Video ones are preferable because then you can hear it straight from the customer themselves.

Look on 3rd party websites such as TrustPilot and, as strange as it may seem, make sure there are negative reviews. You can't please everybody and it would be very odd to see a company with only positive reviews.

6 ENSURE THE COMPANY IS REGULATED BY A LEGITIMATE REGULATORY BODY



- All companies who are taking money from you **must be registered with a regulatory body.**
- In the UK this is the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), in Germany this is the BaFin and in the U.S. it is Securities Exchange Commission. There should be a number you can quote and take to, for example, the FCA's website so you can cross reference the information and ensure they are regulated. If the company's name doesn't come up, **DO NOT SEND THEM ANY MONEY AT ALL.**

7 CHECK THE COMPANY IS REGISTERED



- Ensure the company has it's own number and this is displayed clearly on the website that you can quote on 'Companies House'. If it isn't or the number is incorrect, that is a big red flag and you should not invest with them. The company should also have their VAT number on the website.

A BIG RED FLAG IS IF THE COMPANY CONTACTS YOU VIA PLATFORMS SUCH AS WHATSAPP, TELEGRAM OR SOCIAL MEDIA REQUESTING MONEY.

IF THEY ARE PROPERLY REGULATED, THIS IS NOT HOW THEY WOULD CONDUCTING BUSINESS.

Really it is up to you to do your due diligence, there are always going to be companies out there trying to scam you but if you follow these 7 steps it will make them easier to identify. If you do find a company you believe to be legitimate, try by investing a small amount of money to start to start with and see how it goes.

An important thing to mention is do not feel like you need to give your money to other people to invest. Wherever possible you should learn to take control

of your own finances and learn to invest your own money. When you put your money into the hands of other people, you are reliant on them. Our ethos at Investment Mastery is to take control of every part of your life, including your finances, so that you're solid and you can leave a legacy. This is something we strongly believe, so please don't feel that you have to give your money to someone else, learn to do it yourself.

To your success!