



The New Face of Investment Fraud

Scammers are getting bold – and very polished – when pitching “investment opportunities,” especially when they involve *cryptocurrency*. They’ll pose as licensed investment professionals, slide into messages with charts or screenshots, and promise returns that seem just believable enough to hook someone who’s trying to grow their savings.

Here's the reality: **Most of these “advisors” aren’t advisors at all.** They’re imposters using slick stories and manipulated platforms to steal your money.

Red Flags of Fake Investment Advisors

1. **They aren’t actually licensed anywhere.** *Real investment advisors must be registered with FINRA or the SEC – and scammers absolutely count on the fact that most people don’t check. You can verify anyone’s credentials for free with BrokerCheck. (<https://brokercheck.finra.org/>)*
2. **They ask you to move money into crypto accounts you control... at first.** This builds trust. Then they’ll ask you to let them invest on your behalf, move your money to a “trading wallet,” or transfer funds to an address (or wallet) that they provide. Once that money is sent, it’s gone. *There are no chargebacks or reversals in the crypto world.*
3. **They’ll show you “live results” on platforms they control.** These sites/apps are fake dashboards scammers manipulate to make it look like your investment is growing. *None of those numbers are real.*
4. **They’ll pressure you to keep your investing a secret.** They might say things like “others won’t understand” or “it affects market performance.” *Translation: they don’t want anyone to warn you.*
5. **They refuse to let you withdraw funds, or they demand taxes/fees upfront to “unlock” the money.** A legitimate advisor will *NEVER* do this.

Remember:

- No real advisor cold-messages people online. **EVER.**
- No legitimate investment opportunity *guarantees* returns.
- **Crypto transfers = cash.** Once the money is sent, it cannot be recovered.
- *Always* look up an advisor’s license before sending any money.
- No real advisor will instruct you to install encrypted messaging apps like *Telegram* or *WhatsApp*.
- **If someone calls themselves a Crypto Advisor without providing you with their actual SEC/FINRA credentials, they’re an imposter. FULL STOP.**