

Reporting Fraud Incidents

Please consider taking each of the following steps:

1. File a complaint with the FBI Internet Complaint Center (IC3).

- ▶ **Visit:** www.ic3.gov
- ▶ **Additional Support:** Persons 60 or older may call the National Elder Fraud Hotline at 833-FRAUD-11 (833-372-8311) for assistance filing with IC3.

2. Report the incident to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

- ▶ **Visit:** <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/>
- ▶ Report a scam and find out what you can do to protect yourself.

3. If available, provide both organizations with the following:

- ▶ Financial transaction information
- ▶ Original records: emails, letters, checks, receipts, etc.
- ▶ Information used by criminals, such as bank accounts, addresses, email addresses, websites, and phone numbers

4. For those victimized specifically by investment fraud, also report it to the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions' (DFI's) Divisions of Securities.

- ▶ **Contact:** DFIDLSecuritiesEnforcement@dfi.wisconsin.gov or (608) 266-2139
- ▶ **Additional Support:** Visit the DFI's investment scam tracker to access descriptions of fraudulent scams to help spot and avoid financial investment scams at:
<https://dfi.wi.gov/Pages/Securities/InvestorResources/InvestmentScamTracker.aspx>

5. Contact financial institutions to safeguard accounts and contact credit bureaus to monitor your identity for suspicious activity.

***A Note on Recovery Firms:** A third-party asset recovery company is a company that charges a fee to help investors recover funds lost to scams, including cryptocurrency scams. Many of these self-proclaimed recovery companies are not law firms, although they may advertise that they can provide legal assistance. While the company claims to gather information on the scam and assist you in recovering lost investment dollars, at best they may file a boilerplate complaint with a financial regulator which you can do for free. At worst, they may do nothing and disappear with the fee, defrauding you for a second time. If you are approached by a third-party asset recovery company about an investment loss, beware that they may be charging for services available to you for free. The best way to avoid falling victim to a phony company or website is to research the company starting with a trusted government source or government website.