FOR INDIVIDUALS / SCAM PATTERNS

Spot the warning signs before you send crypto

Learn which claims to question, practise with a fictional offer, and use a checklist before deciding whether to send money.

01 Look at what you are being asked to do

Question guaranteed profits, claims of no risk and deadlines that prevent checks. Ask how returns would be generated and what independently verifiable evidence supports them. One serious concern is enough to pause; reassuring details do not cancel it out.

02 Check identity independently of the offer

Check the exact company, domain and any claimed authorisation using independent official records. Check what permissions cover the activity. A logo, registration number or personal recommendation does not establish that a website is operated by the claimed provider.

03 Understand why a small withdrawal can be misleading

A small successful withdrawal can be used to build trust before a larger deposit. A test payment does not establish legitimacy and may expose you to loss. A dashboard balance is also a claim, not proof that assets exist or belong to you.

04 Create room for an independent decision

Step away from the conversation and discuss the actual offer with someone who has no financial interest in it. If a check raises a concern, pause even when other checks are complete. A checklist records your review; it cannot certify an offer as safe.

Example. “My trading group guarantees 3% every day. I withdrew yesterday, so you know it works. There are only two places left. Send your deposit tonight.”

Review checklist

- ☐ I have checked the exact company name and website independently.
- ☐ I have checked any claimed authorisation, including the domain and permissions.
- ☐ I have read the terms and can explain how the claimed returns would be generated.
- ☐ I have discussed the offer with someone independent of its promoter.
- ☐ I have considered whether urgency, secrecy or a personal relationship is influencing my decision.

Examples are fictional. Completing these checks does not establish safety or recovery prospects.

References: IC3: investment fraud / FBI: cryptocurrency investment fraud

Incident happening now? Open immediate-help guidance.