FOR INDIVIDUALS / SCAM PATTERNS

Understand how different crypto scams work

Learn to distinguish a deceptive payment request, a compromised account and a misleading investment platform.

01 Describe the mechanism before choosing a label

Describe the action before choosing a label: a requested payment, changed account login, disclosed recovery phrase or approved wallet permission. A deceptive payment and unauthorised account access are different mechanisms, and both can appear in the same incident.

02 Recognise an investment story built around trust

An investment approach may begin with a personal relationship and develop into a payment request. Verify the offer and operator independently of its promoter. A demand for further money to release a withdrawal deserves scrutiny; a delay alone does not establish fraud.

03 Separate account access from wallet permissions

Passwords, recovery phrases and token permissions expose different forms of access. Record which account, device, site or wallet prompt was involved. If the technical meaning is unclear, retain the record and describe what you saw rather than guessing.

04 Recognise that follow-up approaches can be another scam

Follow-up recovery approaches can be another scam. Verify the organisation through an independently located channel before sharing records or paying. A logo, quick replies or a guaranteed result does not establish legitimacy. Never give a support contact your recovery phrase.

Example. In this fictional example, a support account asks someone to enter their recovery phrase into a webpage to “verify ownership”. Classify the request by what it would expose, even if the page uses a familiar exchange logo.

Review checklist

- ☐ I can describe the action requested without relying only on a scam label.
- ☐ I can distinguish an account password from a wallet recovery phrase.
- ☐ I know where to find incident-specific help if funds have already moved.

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

References: Ethereum: security and scam prevention / FBI: cryptocurrency investment fraud

Incident happening now? Open immediate-help guidance.