



ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

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Commission Urges Arizonans to “Ask and Check” Before They Invest

PHOENIX – With many senior citizens returning to Arizona for the winter months, the Corporation Commission is reminding them to be on the lookout for fraudulent investment schemes.

October 2nd through October 8th is Senior Safety Week, and the Commission’s Securities Division is joining other regulators all over the country in getting the word out to investors, providing them with resources to make an informed decision BEFORE they invest.

Scam artists prey on people who don't ask many questions or take the time to understand the "mechanics" of a particular investment. It is estimated that one of every five seniors over the age of 65 have been victimized by financial fraud.

The Commission’s Securities Division urges investors prior to investing to implement the four C’s:

- **C**onsider the risk factors associated with the investment. Make sure you get a prospectus or offering materials and take the time to read it. The documentation should contain enough clear and accurate information to allow you or your adviser to evaluate and verify the details of an investment.
- **C**ompare the investment to others, especially as it relates to cost and profitability. Keep in mind with a “ground-floor” type of investment, there may not be an “apples-to-apples” comparison available, which increases the risk level.
- **C**onsult with someone you trust regarding financial matters, but this person should NOT have a financial stake in the investment or already be an investor in what you’re interested in purchasing.
- **C**all a securities regulator to ask and check if the salesperson and company is registered to offer and sell securities, and if they’ve had complaints and legal action taken against them.

You can “ASK and CHECK” by contacting the Securities Division’s Investigator on Duty by telephone at (602) 542-0662 or by email, info@azinvestor.gov.

Get guidelines on wise investing and know how to recognize fraud to reduce the possibility of falling victim to an investment scam by obtaining resources from the Commission’s Securities Division at www.azinvestor.gov. Also, the Securities Division has a speakers bureau that conducts educational seminars for seniors throughout the year. You can request a speaker for a group meeting or event by contacting the Investor Education Coordinator directly at (602) 542-0428 or email info@azinvestor.gov.

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