

Warning Signs Of Investment Fraud

- > Company will pay any tax on interest earned
- > Company will pay any surrender penalty incurred by the investor
- Company will pay the investor a "Finder's Fee", "Referral Fee", or "Bonus" for recruiting new investors
- > There is NO prospectus or written offering material
- > No monthly account balance statement
- Monthly account balance statement is generated by the <u>individual</u>, rather than by the company where the money is invested
- Checks to open the investment are made payable to the <u>individual</u>, rather than to the company where the money is to be invested
- Wire transfers to open the investment are wired to the <u>individual's</u> account, rather than the company's account where the money is to be invested
- Sales person will not give specific information as to precisely where or how the money will be invested
- > The company only has a cell phone, rather than a landline phone
- > The company only has a post office box or website, rather than a physical address

Louisiana's Office of Financial Institutions (OFI) cautions potential investors to thoroughly check out *every* investment opportunity. To obtain a free background check (i.e., *CRD Report*) on investment professionals registered with OFI to sell securities in Louisiana OR to report suspected fraud, please contact OFI at:

Call:	(225) 925-4512 OR 1-877-516-3653	Write:	Office of Financial Institutions (OFI) Securities Division
Fax:	(225) 925-4511		8660 United Plaza Boulevard
Webs	ite: <u>www.ofi.la.gov/SecuritiesInvestorEd.</u>	<u>htm</u>	Second Floor Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809