

The Crypto Scam Red-Flags Checklist

20 warning signs you are being scammed. Check them before you send a single cent. If you tick even one box, stop and verify independently first.

1. How they first contact you

- ☐ An unexpected DM, text, or "wrong number" message that turns friendly fast.
- ☐ A new online friend or romantic partner who steers the talk toward crypto profits.
- ☐ A "financial advisor", celebrity, or influencer promoting a specific platform.
- ☐ Pressure to move the conversation to WhatsApp or Telegram.

2. The pitch

- ☐ Guaranteed or unusually high returns, described as "no risk".
- ☐ Urgency: a limited-time offer, or "act now or miss out".
- ☐ They show you screenshots of big profits or a slick trading dashboard.
- ☐ They kindly offer to "teach" you and walk you through every step.

3. The platform or app

- ☐ The app is not in the official App Store / Google Play, or was sent to you as a link.
- ☐ The company is not on your regulator's licensed list (or appears on a warning list).
- ☐ The website is brand-new, slightly misspelled, or copies a real, well-known brand.
- ☐ You can only deposit by crypto, gift cards, or a wire to a personal account.

4. When you try to withdraw

- ☐ Your "profits" look great, but you cannot actually take any money out.
- ☐ They demand a "tax", "fee", or extra deposit before you can withdraw.
- ☐ Your account is suddenly frozen, or you are told to invest more first.
- ☐ Support goes silent, or gets aggressive, the moment you ask to cash out.

5. The "recovery" second scam

- ☐ Someone contacts you offering to get your lost crypto back, for a fee.
- ☐ They claim to be a "recovery agency", a hacker, or even a government agent.
- ☐ They found you right after you were scammed (victim lists get resold).
- ☐ They ask for an upfront payment, your wallet seed phrase, or remote access.

Ticked even ONE box? Stop. Do not send money. Verify independently first.

Free from Scam First Aid, an independent resource for crypto-scam victims. We never charge a fee and never sell your data. Already been scammed? Get your free step-by-step action plan and a country-by-country reporting guide at scamfirstaid.org. Please share this checklist with anyone who is starting to "invest".