

July 2016

Fraud Alert!

WHEN A STRANGER CALLS WITH A GREAT INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

The average person receives a call a day from someone offering an investment opportunity. These are, for the most part, legitimate investment opportunities with all the proper registrations.

But legitimate investments are often pitched in inaccurate and tricky ways. They can include oil and gas partnerships, private real estate investments, certain insurance products, securities or other income-producing vehicles.

Example of a Scam Call

Hi, this is Tex from down here in Odessa. Do you invest in high-yielding and safe energy investments? For a very limited time, Acme-Globex Oil is allowing a select few new investors into our partnership. Our track record includes never hitting a dry well and producing annualized income of 25 percent, and that income goes on for several decades. Because the price of oil is temporarily low, we can now drill for far less and are likely to do much better than that 25 percent income. Can I put you down for \$100,000, or would you like me to see if I can get you more? I can't promise more, but I'll try.

It is easy to get roped into promise of a call like this. A \$25,000 safe annual income stream that would provide long term financial security is wildly appealing. There is an old saying: "Anything that looks too good to be true probably is." The key word here is "probably," meaning that even though you may not know for sure, you should be skeptical.

How to Handle an Investment Opportunity Call

These strangers are very skilled in using emotions to scam you. They stroke your ego with assurances that you are among the select few investors who are being let in on this opportunity. Then they take advantage of your fear and sense of urgency by warning that this low-risk, high-return opportunity is limited — and you've got to act fast or lose out.

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Set your emotions aside and ask yourself why, if an investment is so good, they are calling you out of the blue instead of a venture capitalist. Finally, don't ever think you are too sophisticated to fall for some of these pitches. Anyone can be a victim of investment fraud.

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Monthly Fraud Alerts brought to you by:

Bucks County Crimes Against Older Adults Task Force

Bucks County District Attorney's Office

215-348-6344

Bucks County Area Agency on Aging

215-348-0510

Bucks County Coroner's Office

215-348-3852

Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA)

1-800-675-6900

A Woman's Place (AWP)

1-800-220-8116

Bucks County Office of Consumer Protection

215-348-6060

Bucks County Register of Wills

215-348-6265

www.crimesaginstolderadultsbucks.org

24 - HOUR HOTLINE: 1-800-490-8505