

Attorney General Bill Schuette

*Protecting Michigan Citizens*  
**INVESTMENT FRAUD**



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## **ACTION PLAN**

**AWARE!**

Recognizing common scams.

**AVOID!**

Becoming a victim.

**ACTION!**

Steps to take if you become a victim.

[www.michigan.gov/ag](http://www.michigan.gov/ag)

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## CHECK BEFORE YOU INVEST

- **Firms and persons selling securities in Michigan must be licensed.**
- **Individuals selling insurance, stocks, bonds, or mutual funds, must be registered.**
- **Call OFIR toll free at 877-999-6442 to verify you are dealing with a registered agent who is selling a registered security.**

[www.michigan.gov/ag](http://www.michigan.gov/ag)



## WARNING SIGNS

- **Pushy Salesperson**
- **Unrealistic Guarantees**
- **Unregistered Products**
- **Missing Documentation**
- **Complex Strategies**

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## ANNUITIES

- Those who sell annuities get large commissions for each annuity.
- The larger the annuity, the larger the commission.
- Advisor's encouragement may be for own personal gain, NOT because it is the best product for you.

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## REVERSE MORTGAGES

- Seek professional advice first.  
**MSHDA: 1-866-946-7432**  
**HUD Directory: 1-800-569-4287**
- Understand all costs, fees, and terms.
- Carefully consider use of funds.
- Consult with trusted family members or financial advisor.

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## AFFINITY FRAUD

- Con artists prey upon members of identifiable groups.
- Con artists pretend to be or are members of the group.
- Con artists exploit the trust and friendship that exist in groups of people who have something in common.

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