

Tips for seniors and their families

Avoid falling prey to a con artist or purchasing a product that is not suitable

- Contact the Department of Consumer and Business Services to see if the insurance or investment product and its seller are registered, licensed, or approved by the state.
- Ask whether the salesperson has a disciplinary history – that is, whether any administrative or other proceedings have been brought against him or her.
- Deal only with agents, financial advisers, brokerages, insurance companies, or financial institutions with a proven track record.
- Ask for written information on the product or the business. Financial data on the company and the risks involved in the investment may be available. If buying an insurance product, read the entire insurance policy.
- Don't take everything you hear or read at face value. Ask questions if you don't understand, and do some research. Go to a trusted friend or relative or an independent adviser such as an attorney or accountant not involved with the product.

- Steer clear of investments said to have no downside or risk. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Contact your local Better Business Bureau to see if any complaints have been filed against the company or the principals of the company:

Better Business Bureau of Alaska, Oregon & Western Washington

www.thebbb.org

Phone: 503-212-3022

Better Business Bureau of Southwest Idaho & Eastern Oregon

www.boise.bbb.org

E-mail: info@boise.bbb.org

Phone: 208-342-4649

Department of Consumer and Business Services Consumer Advocacy Unit

888-877-4894 toll-free

503-947-7984 in Salem

dcbs.oregon.gov

440-3495 (5/09/COM)

