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More than 7.3 million older Americans – **one out of every five** citizens over the age of 65 already have been victimized by a financial swindle, according to a major new Investor Protection Trust (IPT) survey. **Seniors are the number one target for securities fraud.** Did you read that? Seniors!

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The New Jersey Bureau of Securities continues the fight to prevent senior securities fraud. While World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was recognized officially on June 15th, the Bureau has deemed every day a day to be alert to the signs of elder fraud. To do that, we created information to help you, the public, recognize fraud and financial exploitation against elders and that information is available on our website, to you, libraries, medical facilities and government locations.

The files of securities regulators are filled with cases of fraud perpetrated against older Americans. Some have been cheated out of savings, others out of investment dollars and some seniors even lose the security of their home. We want our seniors to contact us before they invest or call us with concerns about the possibility of fraud or tampering with accounts. Additionally, the Bureau strongly encourages others to watch out for a friend, relative, patient or client who they might recognize as being a victim of fraud or has the signs for being a potential victim.

The New Jersey Bureau of Securities is the state's securities regulatory agency. We regulate the investment firms, the agents and the investments. Additionally, the Bureau has access to a national database that contains valuable background information on everyone and every firm registered to sell securities in NJ or to NJ residents. What does that mean to you? It means a lot. It means that you should first be calling us to ask for that free background information. You can then make informed decisions about who you choose to handle your money. It gives you the chance to see who is registered and who is not. If they are not, then they are not supposed to be selling you securities and rather than being the true registered professional, that person might be a professional looking fraudster. Please read the information we have created and check the Bureau's website.

You are encouraged to call us at **1-866-I-Invest, 1-866-446-8378 or 1-973-504-3600** to request that information and it is free. We are also interested in your calls to discuss a suspected fraud or a concern. Go to our website www.njsecurities.gov to learn from videos on actual fraud cases, to play an investment game, to print investment guides and a military safe investing guide and more. We also can provide a speaker on investor education for your group, free of charge.

Thank you for your interest,

Debora Whipple
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