



A Guide for Victims of Cryptocurrency Scams

What is Cryptocurrency?

Cryptocurrency refers to any form of currency that exists digitally or virtually and uses cryptography to secure transactions. Cryptocurrencies don't have a central issuing or regulating authority, instead using a decentralized system to record transactions and issue new units.

While the use of cryptocurrency is legitimate and growing, the lack of public understanding makes it a prime area for scammers to target victims. Always do your research before making any investment decisions!

Reporting Cryptocurrency Scams

If you believe you are the victim of a cryptocurrency scam, it is important that you contact:

- Your local police to file a complaint
- Your bank/financial institutions
- The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre

Reporting helps law enforcement establish trends to address issues proactively. Even if a scam doesn't work, it is recommended that it be reported to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre for statistical purposes.

***Be wary of anyone claiming they can recover your funds.
This may be another scam.***

Scammers often target victims of fraud a second or third time with the promise of recovering money. Always do your due diligence and never send recovery money.

Tell family, friends, neighbours and co-workers about your experience. You may prevent someone else from becoming a victim.

Gathering Information

To aid the investigation, law enforcement will ask you to collect the following information:

Transaction Details:

This is the information used to transfer money out of your account. These unique identifiers can vary in length and often look like long strings of random letters and numbers. Provide as much transaction information as possible, even if you are not sure it is relevant.

- ✔ Cryptocurrency Address
Example: 0x58566904f57eac4E9EDd81BbC2f877865ECd35985
- ✔ Amount and Cryptocurrency Type
Example: 1.02345 ether
- ✔ Dates and Times
Example: 1 January 2023, 12:01 AM EST
- ✔ Transaction ID (hash)
Example: 0xfa485de419011ceefdd3cd00a4ff64e52bf9a0dfa528e4fff8bb4c9

Details about the Scammer:

- ✔ Where and how you first encountered the scammer
- ✔ Your communications with the scammer (emails/texts)
- ✔ Associated identifiers to the scammer (names, email addresses, phone numbers)

Details about the Scam:

- ✔ Domain names, website addresses, or applications the scammer instructed you to use
- ✔ Any two-factor authentication, one-time passcode, or QR code information
- ✔ The cryptocurrency exchange used to send or receive funds
- ✔ The timeline of the scam

Contact:

Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre

 1-888-495-8501

 antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca

Lethbridge Police Service

 403-328-4444 (Non-Emergency)

 lethbridgepolice.ca