

“Protecting Deaf and Hearing Loss Communities from Investment Scams”

[on-screen text] Actor portrayal of actual fraud

>> Narrator: 00:02 Let me tell you how I became the victim of fraud in the last way I ever expected

[music playing]

>> Narrator: 00:08 It started when my friend, Joe, who I’ve known for years and who is also deaf, passed along some investing tips he received from someone in our deaf meetup group on a social networking app

>> Narrator: 00:29 This guy looked legitimate. He even had the snazzy headshot profile and a sharp website

>> Narrator: 00:38 And his investment opportunity seemed like a sure thing

>> Narrator: 00:41 But as you probably guessed, we couldn’t have been more wrong

>> Narrator: 00:47 This guy took off and our money is long gone

>> Narrator: 00:52 Joe should have known. I should have known

>> Narrator: 00:56 If it’s too good to be true, it probably is

>> Narrator: 01:04 This guy posed as one of us, took advantage of our community and our willingness to want to help one another

>> Narrator: 01:13 It was all part of his plan

>> Narrator: 01:20 It’s called affinity fraud—I looked it up

>> Narrator: 01:25 And it happens in tight-knit communities, where trust is important

>> Narrator: 01:33 We should have done our research...but Joe thought this guy was honest...and I trusted my friend

>> Narrator: 01:43 Now our savings and the plans we had for them are wiped out

>> Narrator: 01:49 And I never saw it coming

[on-screen text] for more information go to www.investor.gov