

If you have an Individual Retirement Arrangement (IRA), you should be alert to questionable advertisements and solicitations for "IRS-Approved" or "IRA-Approved" investments. These advertisements or solicitations, often for highly speculative types of investments, mislead by falsely claiming that the Internal Revenue Service has approved a particular investment. The IRS **does not** approve any forms of IRA investments.

Here's an example of a **fraudulent** "approved IRA" sales pitch:

"This investment has been approved for your IRA. You can use your IRA for this investment by filling out the forms in the attached information package, and our agent will take care of the rest. This has been reviewed by the government (or IRS). This investment is so safe you can use it for your IRA. Only certain investments are approved for IRAs."

The Facts

The IRS does issue letters to IRA sponsors, trustees and custodians certifying that they are complying with requirements concerning investor rights, account administration, and standards that allow contributions to be deductible.

The IRS does not

- review or approve investments
- endorse any investments
- advise people on how to invest their IRAs
- issue any statement that an investment in an IRA is protected because a particular trustee or custodian has been approved by the IRS.

W

e urge you to carefully consider the soundness of your IRA investments and to be aware of the current tax rules for IRAs.

Federal and state
government
agencies investi-

gate and regulate companies
and individuals who offer
investments for IRAs. Before
you invest, you should check
with your state securities
regulator to see if there have
been complaints about the
investment or the person
selling it. You'll find the
number of your state securities
regulator in the government
listings section of your
telephone book.

If you have questions or complaints
about claims for investments made
through telephone, mail or on-line
promotions, contact either:

- *THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION*
(202) FTC-HELP
(382-4357)

Web site: www.ftc.gov

- *THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION*
1-800-SEC-0330
Web site: www.sec.gov

You can get a free IRS publication
on how to establish, contribute to,
or deduct for an IRA by calling
1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676). Just ask for IRS Publication 590,

“Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs).”



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

www.irs.ustreas.gov

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AN
IMPORTANT
MESSAGE

FOR TAXPAYERS

WITH
IRAs



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Does NOT
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