Phantom Riches

One of the most common tactics per the Industry Regularity Authority (FINRA). It can be in the form of a sweepstakes win, a no-risk investment with a huge return, or even use a dating website tactic to present themselves as exactly what you've been looking for with an impulsive decision.



Fear

One of the biggest emotional drivers is fear. Scammers use threats of IRS audits, jail time, computer meltdowns, or a grandchild in trouble. Any of these can spark an instant emotion-driven misjudgment.



Intimidation

Calling you 50-60 times a day, claiming to know where you live, and threatening bodily harm is a tactic sometimes used.

Scarcity

The notion that something is rare means it must be valuable. They'll say the product is limited, and the offer expires soon, and only 1 in 10 million win.

Source credibility

Defrauders will do everything they can to convince you they are the FBI, police, IRS, or from your bank or financial institution to get personal information from you.





Commitment

Most people innately want to keep their promises, so scammers will try to get you to make a commitment, such as to follow instructions. Then later if you resist, they'll accuse you of going back on your word.



Reciprocity

The idea that 'if I do something for you, it's natural for you to return the favor' is a cultural norm that scammers use by granting their victims small favors, like free shipping, and ask for a bigger one in return.