



FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION  
CONSUMER ADVICE

Consumer Alert

# Did someone send you to a Bitcoin ATM? It's a scam

By: Jennifer Leach, Division of Consumer and Business Education

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## Anatomy of an Imposter Scam



Is there a legit reason for someone to send you to a Bitcoin ATM? The short answer is NO. Will someone from the government send you to a Bitcoin ATM? NEVER. If you've followed this [Anatomy of an Imposter Scam series](#), you know there's more to it than that.

Scammers succeed because they're good at what they do — which is lying. So, if someone calls and says you have to act now because your money is at risk, you might listen if they're convincing. They'll scare you into keeping it a secret — even from your closest loved ones. Once they have you alarmed and alone, they'll give you the solution to the problem they just created: “protect your money by moving it.” And that's when they'll send you to a Bitcoin ATM to “secure” your money. “Problem” solved? Not even close.

That's because neither Bitcoin nor the ATM will protect your money. In fact, no cryptocurrency will. No matter what the caller says, there's no such thing as a government Bitcoin account or digital wallet. There are no Bitcoin federal safety lockers. And only a scammer will give you a QR code to “help” you deposit your life savings in a Bitcoin ATM.

What they're doing is trying to rush you into something you can't reverse: giving your money to a scammer. So, if you get a call like this, remember:

- **Never move or transfer your money to “protect it.”** Your money is fine where it is, no matter what they say or how urgently they say it.
- **Worried? Call your real bank, broker, or investment advisor.** Use the number you find on your account statements. Don't use the number the caller gives you. That'll take you to the scammer.
- **Report it.** Tell your bank or fund right away. Especially if you moved money. Then tell the FTC: [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/ReportFraud).

Could you share this post with one person today? Scammers love this approach right now. But if we all tell one person, and they tell one person, we can make sure more people know how to stop this scam. Their life savings will thank you.

**Anatomy of an Imposter Scam**

Did someone send you to a Bitcoin ATM?  
**It's a scam.**

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The graphic features a magnifying glass over a Bitcoin ATM icon, a speech bubble, and a red warning triangle with an exclamation mark. The background is orange and blue.

Our “Anatomy of an Imposter Scam” blog series breaks down how to recognize, avoid, and report business and government imposter scams. Read more.

- [Never move your money to “protect it.” That's a scam](#)
- [What's a verification code and why would someone ask me for it?](#)
- [Will your bank or investment fund stop a transfer to a scammer? Probably not](#)

- [Sure ways to spot a scammer](#)
- [Did you get a call or text about a suspicious purchase on Amazon? It's a scam](#)
- [New tech support scammers want your life savings](#)
- Did someone send you to a Bitcoin ATM? It's a scam

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**Dona Maria Keyton** March 11, 2024

I ended up being taken for 300 something dollars

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**Eileen Tuominen** March 20, 2024

I appreciate the information you provide. Trusting people get taken all the time

[Reply](#)

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**Therman Martin** March 20, 2024

I have about 20 hard copies of emails showing the email address & telephone numbers if you ever need them.

[Reply](#)

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**Rose** March 21, 2024

Thanks

[Reply](#)

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**Sally Bright** March 21, 2024

4 years ago someone talked me into buying bitcoins thru a company. It kept costing me more & more money. I had to stop STILL get notices from company(I can't remember name) showing how my bitcoins have gone up. Haven't a clue if it's real or not but Sure I'll need more money to cash them in. Any ideas?

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**Maria Pacilli** April 05, 2024

Thank you for all the info.,as it will be shared.

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