



Romance Scams

Here's how they work:



Someone contacts you on social media — and they're interested in getting to know you. Or maybe you meet someone special on a dating website or mobile app. Soon the person wants to write to you directly or start talking on the phone. They say it's true love, but they live far away — maybe because of work, or because they're in the military.

Then they start asking for money. Maybe it's for a plane ticket to visit you. Or emergency surgery. Or something else urgent.

Scammers of all ages, genders, and sexual orientations make fake profiles, sometimes using photos of other people — even stolen pictures of real military personnel. They build relationships — some even pretend to plan weddings — before they disappear with your money.

Here's what to do:

- 1. Stop. Don't send money.** Never send anyone cash or pay with gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency to an online love interest. You won't get it back.
- 2. Pass this information on to a friend.** You may not have gotten tangled up with a romance scam, but chances are, you know someone who will — if they haven't already.