



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 cash, or send money using gift cards, wire transfers, cryptocurrency, or a payment app to an online love interest. Once you pay this way, it's hard to get your money 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.



Want to know more?
Sign up for Consumer Alerts
at **ftc.gov/ConsumerAlerts**.

...*Pass* it ON

Please Report Scams

If you spot a scam, please report it to the Federal Trade Commission.

- Go online: **ReportFraud.ftc.gov**
- Call the FTC at 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357)
or TTY 1-866-653-4261

Your report can help protect other people. By reporting fraud, you can help the FTC's investigators identify the scammers and stop them before they can get someone's hard-earned money. It really makes a difference.



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