

# IT FEELS LIKE LOVE ... BUT IS IT A SCAM?

When your heart is involved, it can be hard to listen when that voice in your head tells you something just doesn't seem right. The criminals who carry out romance scams seem genuine, caring & believable - they are experts at what they do. They will establish a relationship as quickly as possible & gain your trust. They will make plans to meet in person - but something always happens - maybe even propose marriage. Eventually, they will ask for money.



## TIPS FOR AVOIDING ROMANCE SCAMS:

- ➡ Be careful what you post & make public online. Scammers can use details shared on social media & dating sites to better understand & target you.
- ➡ Research the person's photo & profile using online searches to see if the image, name, or details have been used elsewhere.
- ➡ Beware if the individual seems too perfect or quickly asks you to leave a dating service or social media site to communicate directly.
- ➡ Beware if the individual attempts to isolate you from friends & family or requests inappropriate photos or financial information that could later be used to extort you.
- ➡ Beware if the individual promises to meet in person but then always comes up with an excuse why they can't. If you haven't met in person after a few months, no matter the reason, you have good reason to be suspicious.
- ➡ Never send money to anyone you have only communicated with online or by phone.
- ➡ Be aware that con artists are present on most dating & social media sites.

**If you suspect an online relationship is a scam, stop all contact immediately. If you are the victim of a romance scam, report it.**



**National Elder Fraud Hotline**  
**1-833-372-8311**