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Is this a ... **Romance Scam?**

**Romance scammers are convincing con artists.
Victims are left heartbroken and financially harmed.**

**Romance scams can happen to anyone.
Here are the signs to look for:**

- You met them online or over the phone
- They claim to live or work overseas
- Their dilemma/crisis requires your money

Romance scammers are skilled at:

- Forming strong emotional bonds through frequent conversations
- Presenting themselves as successful, caring, and deeply interested in your life

After convincing a victim to send significant amounts of money, romance scammers typically disappear: they stop responding or block all communication.

**Romance
scammers
tend to shift
between
promises and
pressure.**

**Tips for avoiding
romance scams:**

✓ ALWAYS:

- Be skeptical if they request money.
- Take time to research them.
- Keep personal information private.

✗ NEVER:

- Send them money.
- Give them personal information.
- Sign any documents they send.

**Call the Romance Impostor
Scams Forensic Initiative hotline**

» 855-961-SCAM

Some common romance scams



FAKE DATING SITES

Scammers use fraudulent dating platforms that steal personal data or install malware.

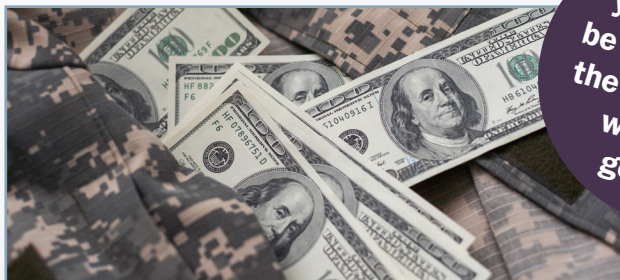
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CATFISHING

Scammers create fake profiles using stolen or AI-generated photos, build trust over time but often avoid video calls or in-person meetings, and ask for money or personal information.

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MILITARY ROMANCE

Scammers pretend to be soldiers stationed overseas who claim to need money for travel, a medical emergency, or a communication fee.

Any money you send will be lost because the relationship was never genuine.



FAKE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Scammers pose as successful crypto traders or business moguls and falsely promise huge returns upon investment.

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PACKAGE OR CUSTOMS FEES

Scammers falsely claim they sent a valuable gift but require payment to cover a customs or shipping fee.

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SEXTORTION

Scammers persuade victims to share intimate photos, then threaten to expose these images unless victims pay them money.

Romance Impostor Scams Forensic Initiative: the process

① Complaint filed ② Forensic team investigates ③ Referral to local law enforcement

Additional Resources:

Tips for avoiding scams:

<https://ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Consumer-Tips-on-Avoiding-Scams>



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