

The Red Flags of Romance Scams



Lots of people meet friends and potential love interests online through dating sites, social media, or mobile apps. It can be a great way to meet people, but recognize that not everyone is who they say they are online.

Beware the romance scam.

It's a **red flag** if the person:

- ♥ Wants to leave the dating site immediately and use personal email or instant messaging to communicate
- ♥ Professes love too quickly
- ♥ Claims to be from the U.S., but is traveling or working overseas
- ♥ Plans to visit, but cancels at the last minute because of a traumatic event or a business deal gone sour
- ♥ Asks for money for a variety of reasons (travel, medical emergencies, losses from a financial setback)

What you can do:

- ♥ Cut off contact right away if you suspect a scam
- ♥ Don't send money by mail, wire transfer, peer-to-peer payment (such as Venmo or CashApp), or put money on a gift card for someone with whom you have only an online relationship
- ♥ Contact the **AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline** if you have questions or think you or a loved one has become a victim. The Helpline can be reached at 1-877-908-3360

To learn more about romance scams, visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network Fraud Resource Center at aarp.org/frc and click "Romance Scams". If you have any questions, call the AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline at **1-877-908-3360**.