

# ROMANCE SCAM

Scammers target victims on online dating websites, but can also use social media or email to make contact.



## WHAT ARE THE SIGNS?



## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **Be very careful** about how much personal information you share on social network and dating sites.
- **Always consider the risks.** Scammers are present on the most reputable sites.
- **Go slow** and ask questions.
- **Research** the person's photo and profile to see if the material has been used elsewhere.
- **Be alert** to spelling and grammar mistakes, inconsistencies in their stories and excuses such as their camera not working.
- **Don't share** any compromising material that could be used to blackmail you.
- If you agree to meet in person, **tell family and friends** where you are going.
- **Beware of money requests.** Never send money or give credit card details, online account details, or copies of personal documents.
- **Avoid sending them upfront payments.**
- **Don't transfer money** for someone else: money laundering is a criminal offence.

## ARE YOU A VICTIM?

Don't feel embarrassed!  
Stop all contact immediately.  
If possible, keep all communication, such as the chat messages.  
File a complaint with the police.  
Report it to the site where the scammer first approached you.  
If you have provided your account details, contact your bank.