



ROMANCE SCAM

Romance scams cost Americans over \$210 Million a year.

Scammers are professionals at getting people to fall for their tactics. When you combine a person's loneliness with the illusions reflect on others' social media pages, it is easy to feel left out and alone. Fancy filtered pictures with the perfect setting reveal something is missing in your world. You sit, scrolling on your phone, waiting for the ideal person to "friend you" so your life will be filled with perfect poses too.

How could I be so deceived?

We all feel we are smarter than the average person, and a scam will never happen to us because we can see right through it. But do we? We need to be honest with our close family and friends about the romantic relationships we start over the internet. Scams can happen anywhere.

We tell children to be careful; don't talk with strangers, yet people move to our inner circle because they "friend" us on social media. Romantic relationships need to go through the tried and true test:

- ✓ *How well do you know this person?*
- ✓ *What time and personal sacrifice have they truly invested in the relationship?*
- ✓ *Are they always asking for something?*

**Admitting there might be something wrong with this relationship is the first step.
Talk to someone. Do not be scammed by a romance scammer.**

For further information, click on the following links:

https://www.equifax.co.uk/resources/identity_protection/how-to-spot-and-avoid-romance-scams.html

<https://www.cid.army.mil/romancescam.html>

<https://www.bbb.org/article/news-releases/17057-online-romance-scams-a-bbb-study-on-how-scammers-use-impersonation-blackmail-and-trickery-to-steal-from-unsuspecting-daters>

<https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/types-of-scams/dating-romance>

<https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/romance-scams>