

HOW TO IDENTIFY ROMANCE AND

Dating Fraud



How to identify Romance and Dating fraud:

If you are using a romance or dating service, you might be contacted by someone who:

- Appears to be very charming and sincere;
- Tells you about a terrible personal tragedy, like a partner or children dying;
- Messages you lots, but always has excuses why they can't meet you face-to-face;
- Asks for your help overcoming a problem that requires money.

They might say they are working abroad, but eventually they will start asking for your 'help' in the form of money.

They might ask you to send money to help them return home, or ask for top-up money for their mobile phone. They may even ask you to accept a large sum of money from them into your bank account.



WHAT THEY REALLY WANT



- ▶ For you to send them money (which you will never get back) or give them your financial details.
- ▶ For you to send them gift cards or top-up vouchers in lieu of money.
- ▶ To gain access to your bank accounts and money, and to launder money to other criminals.

What to do if you get messages from someone like this?

- Check their profile photo on **www.tin eye.com** which will tell you if that photo is likely to be fake
- Never send money or vouchers to someone you've never met in person, no matter how wonderful they sound.
- Never agree to receive money from anyone you've never met in person and trust.
- Talk to friends and family who have your best interests at heart.
- REPORT and SUPPORT.

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WHAT IF THIS HAPPENS TO YOU OR TO SOMEONE YOU KNOW?

REPORT. Call Hampshire Constabulary on **101** and ask for **Op. Signature** to report that this has happened.

SUPPORT. Call the Victim Care Service on **0808 1689 111** for practical and emotional support.

TELL 2 PEOPLE. Telling a few people who can support you means they can help keep you safe and are aware of the scams that might catch people out.