

# Romance & Relationship Scams



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Scammers build trust online, then ask for money, gift cards, crypto, or “investments.”

They often claim emergencies, travel issues, or secret opportunities.

## Trusted Resources

**FTC — Romance Scams** — Patterns, payment requests, and how to help a loved one.

 <https://consumer.ftc.gov/features/romance-scams> ↗

**FBI — IC3** — Report romance scams and financial loss.

 <https://www.ic3.gov/> ↗

**AARP — Romance Scams** — Education and victim support

resources.  <https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/info-2019/romance.html> ↗

## Recognizing & Responding Safely

**Refuse money requests.** Love doesn't require urgent payments.

**Keep chats on-platform initially.** Scammers push you to private apps to avoid moderation.

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**Verify identity.** Video chat before trust; reverse-image the profile photo if you're unsure.

**If you sent money:** Stop further contact, save evidence, report to the platform, your bank, and IC3.

## Sam's Tips

**Promises without meeting = pause.**

**Urgent, secret, or complicated money requests = no.**

**Protect your heart and your wallet.**