

Don't fall for dating & romance scams

What is a dating and romance scam?

These scams involve fraudsters trying to get money from people looking for love or a relationship, often by pretending to be a potential partner, lover or friend.

Scammers may use social media, dating websites or mobile apps to first connect with people they are planning to defraud.

SIGNS YOU MAY BE DEALING WITH OR DATING A SCAMMER

- If someone you've met online tells you they **love you, really like you or feel like they know you very well in the first couple of months** after meeting you.
- If someone you've met online **doesn't want to turn on their camera or meet in person**. They may not be who they say they are.
- If their **stories don't add up** or make sense or details change.
- If they say they'll meet, but **don't turn up** due to an "emergency" or last-minute change of plans.
- If they **ask you for money** because they claim something bad has happened to them.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

- **Never send money, credit card details or banking passcodes** to someone you haven't met in person. Even if you have met, be careful sharing this information.
- **Limit how much you share online**. Scammers can use this information to steal your identity or to pretend to have more in common with you.
- **Do a reverse image search** of the person you're speaking to. You can do this via Google.
- **Be suspicious** if they won't meet, they claim their camera doesn't work or they change their story.
- **Ask for a second opinion**. Tell a friend or family member if the person you have met is behaving strangely and get advice.

If you think you may have been scammed, call the ACCC Indigenous Infoline on **1300 303 143** or report it online at **Scamwatch.gov.au**. It may help others avoid the same scams.

Sources: ACCC Scamwatch; ACCC Your Rights Mob; Customer Owned Banking Association; esafety.gov.au.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the first half of 2022, Australians have lost more than \$14 million to dating and romance scams.

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