

Are you a victim of Romance Fraud?

Romance fraud is more common than you think. It is estimated that £68 million was lost to romance scams in 2020, a 20% increase on previous years. If you recognise this pattern of behaviour and it feels familiar to you, you are not alone. The perpetrators are experienced. But help and support is available, and you will find assistance by contacting the agencies listed below.

Please take some time to consider the questions, if you find yourself answering yes to some of them you may be a victim of a romance fraud.

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| Shortly after meeting they tell you they love you or have strong feelings for you. | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| They ask to communicate with you via personal email and away from the original site where you initially met. | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| They work in senior roles such as the CEO of a company or in another professional capacity such as a surgeon or dentist. | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| They work in remote locations such as an oil rig, war torn countries. | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Their profile might not match what you read on the dating site, in which they feature, with everything they tell you. | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| As they gain your trust, they begin to tell you stories of bad luck or medical illnesses even family tragedies. | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| They indirectly/or directly ask for cash, gifts, or cash to pay credit cards. | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Their messages might be poorly written, inconsistent and sometimes vague. | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| They offer various excuses for why they can't show you more photos or pictures of themselves. | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| They delay meeting in person or talking with you on a video chat. | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |

When you arrange to meet this is often cancelled or postponed last Minute due to an emergency. Yes No

When you speak to them, their accent doesn't match their stated age, origin, Photographs Yes No

Images appear to have been professionally taken. These are highly Posed and contain shots of puppies, mountains, military regalia or uniform. Yes No

Have they asked you to send them gift vouchers or itunes/ google play cards? Yes No

Have they asked you to take out a loan for them? Yes No

Do they seem too good to be true? (Looks, wealth and personality). Yes No

Do you have support from a network of family and friends? Yes No

Do any members of your support network know about your relationship? Yes No

Does your support network believe your friend is real? Yes No

Have family or friends attempted to prevent you from communicating? Yes No

Do you feel this is because they are jealous/do not want you to find happiness? Yes No

Have you sent money to them? Yes No

Are you in financial difficulty due to the money you have transferred? Yes No

Do you realise your money could be used for organised crime or terrorism Yes No

Will the loss of the money you have transferred effect your day-today living. Yes No

Will your children/grandchildren be impacted by your loss? Yes No

Useful Contacts:

Herts Beacon Fraud Hub: Follow us on twitter @BeaconFraudHub

Contact us by phone: 0300 0115 555 (Option 3)

Contact us by email: info@hertfordshirebeacon.org

Take Five: <https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/advice/general-advice/>

Action fraud: www.actionfraud.police.uk or call on 0300 123 2040.

CIFAS: www.cifas.org.uk

Age UK: <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/money-legal/scams-fraud/>