

ROMANCE SCAMS

Is Your New Online Romance a Genuine Connection or Heartbreaking Fraud?

New romances can be wonderful and exciting. However, beware if that person starts asking for money! Don't let a scammer swindle you with sweet talk.

How to Protect Yourself:

- **Do NOT send money to someone you met online.** True online romance connections will not request that money be sent.
- **Do NOT invest based solely on the recommendation of a new online relationship.**
- **Keep the conversation on the dating site or social media site.** Do not move to other messaging platforms the scammer would like to use.
- **If the romance is real, meet in person, in a safe, public place.** A common red flag is someone that refuses to meet in person.
- **Never share sensitive personal or financial information with purely online relationships.**
- **Talk to your friends or family about your love interest.** They may be more objective in seeing possible warning signs of fraud.
- **Check the photos and text messages of your romantic interest.** See if the photos and/or text messages have appeared elsewhere online.
- **Investigate and verify what your connection tells you about themselves.**
- **Invite your new romance to video chat with you.** Scammers do not want to talk “live” while showing their face.
- **Beware of members of the military asking for money.** Members of the military have no need to ask for money for service-related transportation, medical care or administrative fees.
- **Check where the emails come from.** Every email has an IP address which will reveal the IP address of the device which sent it.

If you believe you have been scammed, REPORT IT!

- ▶ Stop communicating with the scammer immediately.
- ▶ Contact the Department of Banking to file a complaint.
- ▶ Report it to the police.

To learn more, contact the Connecticut Department of Banking:

Connecticut Department of Banking | Securities and Business Investments Division
280 Trumbull Street, Hartford, CT 06103 | 1-800-831-7225 | CT.gov/dob

