

HOW TO SPOT ROMANCE FRAUD



If you or someone you know are speaking to someone online and they:

- declare strong feelings for you after a few conversations
- suggest moving the conversation away from the dating website or social media to a more private channel such as email, phone or instant messaging
- make excuses for not video calling or meeting you
- their social media page is inconsistent with what they tell you
- are inconsistent in their stories
- make spelling and grammar mistakes
- ask you for money (either through money transfer or through the purchase of gift cards or presents such as phones and laptops), or to take out a loan in your name

then it may be an online criminal.



REPORT THE CRIME

If you or someone you know has lost money to Romance Fraud, report it!

States of Jersey Police

T: (01534) 612612

Jersey Fraud Prevention Forum

fraudprevention.je

@JsyFraudForum

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WHAT IS THE JERSEY FRAUD PREVENTION FORUM?

The Jersey Fraud Prevention Forum (JFPF) is a group of local organisations working together to raise awareness and provide advice and alerts on scams. The primary aim is to help prevent Islanders being defrauded. A full list of our partner agencies can be found on our website.



JERSEY FRAUD PREVENTION FORUM



DON'T MEND YOUR HEART BY BREAKING YOUR BANK



Romance fraudsters are becoming more sophisticated in their ways of tricking people to fall for their scam. According to the Jersey Police, the beginning of the year saw Jersey citizens lose tens of thousands of pounds to romance fraud.



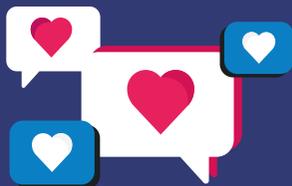
WHAT IS A ROMANCE FRAUD?

This is when criminals start relationships, typically online, with individuals in order to scam them out of their money. Fraudsters often use fake profiles and emotionally manipulate their victims for financial gain, through the anonymity of online dating apps and social media.

They go to great lengths to gain your trust and convince you that you are in a genuine relationship before asking for money. Criminals will use emotive language to manipulate you so that requests for money do not raise alarm bells such as:

- claiming they need money for emergency medical care
- or to pay for transport costs to visit you if they are overseas.

Because these criminals start an emotional relationship, it can be difficult to realise you are being scammed.



PROTECT YOURSELF

- be suspicious of anyone asking you to send them money
- make sure you can verify someone's identity if you meet them online
- profile images may not be genuine, do your research - you can perform a reverse image search on Google to see if someone's picture is really theirs
- never give out your personal information (name, address, bank details, email or phone number) without verifying credentials
- tell a family member, friend or a carer if you are unsure if someone is genuine
- never be embarrassed to report a scam

If you are a victim of a scam or an attempted scam, however minor, there may be hundreds or thousands of other people in a similar position.

Your information may form part of one big jigsaw and may be vital to completing the picture.

Victims of romance fraud may not realise that they are being targeted or may be embarrassed about it. Recognise the signs in friends and family. They may:

- be secretive when questioned about their love life
- unable to video chat, call or meet their partner in person
- become hostile when asked about their relationship
- withdraw from conversations about their partner
- tell stories about their partner's wealth



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According to the National Crime Agency, fewer than 20 percent of incidents of fraud are reported.