

Protect Yourself – Romance Scams

The Community Foundation’s Preventing Financial Scams Initiative protects our community. Here are some tips for romance scams:

- Never send money or gifts to someone you have not met in person.
- Be incredibly cautious of people saying they need money for emergency expenses.
- Be on guard if a person is “working abroad” or is from another country.
- Meet the person you have connected with in-person within five days.
- People who confess love quickly are normally scammers.
- Scammers will ask you to create a new bank account to commit online bank fraud. Scammers will deposit stolen money into the new account and ask you to wire money out of the country.
- Have a healthy skepticism with people you meet online, even if they are charming.
- If you suspect someone is an imposter online, ask someone you trust for their opinion.
- If using Google Chrome, verify if the person’s photo is real by right clicking their photo and selecting “Search Google for image.” If the photo appears on other sites with a different name it is probably being used as a scam.
- Limit the personal information you share online. Keep your communication limited to the dating site or in person.

Reporting the Scam: *Filing a report can help others from getting scammed and can assist law enforcement with stopping scammers.*

- Contact your bank immediately if you suspect you sent money to a scammer.
- File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at <https://ReportFraud.ftc.gov/#/> or the FBI at <https://ic3.gov/>
- Report the incident to the dating site.

50 Washington Street, Suite 300 // Reno, NV 89503 // 775-333-5499 // nevadafund.org

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