

Are You a Victim of a Romance Scam?

A romance scammer uses dating websites or social networking to defraud. They communicate with fake photos and profiles, sharing details of their lives until they have gained trust.

Usually a story is made up to ask for money (i.e. may claim to need money for a medical emergency) or they may not ask for money directly and instead ask for help to cash a counterfeit cheque and send back the cash via a wire service.

Romance scammers can be very patient and may correspond for weeks or months before asking for money. They may even send small gifts and talk on the phone to gain trust.

Be aware of people you have met online who

- ▶ Ask for money or cheques to be cashed
- ▶ Ask for a small gift (this can be a test)
- ▶ Quickly leave a site and ask to communicate in another way, usually by instant message or email
- ▶ Avoid talking on the phone and/or talk on a bad phone connection (this may be an attempt to disguise their voice)
- ▶ Claim to have fallen in love after a very short period of time and without ever meeting in person
- ▶ Tries to isolate you from family or friends, saying that others may not approve
- ▶ Constantly make excuses about why they can't meet in person or agrees to meet in person and then cancels last minute
- ▶ Has only a few photos of themselves and makes excuses about why they can't share more photos with you
- ▶ Claims to be a member of the military (or other people in positions of trust)

Visit [gwseniorsatrisk.ca](https://www.gwseniorsatrisk.ca) for more information & resources

Resource adapted from: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/report-scam-or-fraud>



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