

IMPOSTER SCAMS: Who are they, really?

Imposter scammers lie about who they are in order to trick you into sending money to them or provide them with sensitive information.

In **Romance Scams**, the imposter will pretend to be interested in you romantically.



They will use a fake photo of an attractive person and act as though they have a lot in common with you in order to get your interest.

They will connect with you through social media sites like Facebook or through dating sites.

They will learn as much as they can about you through your profile in order to know the right things to say to gain your trust.



50% of Romance Scam victims are age 50+, but they account for 70% of total financial losses.

RED FLAGS & WHAT TO DO

RED FLAGS:

- ✓ Declarations of love or great affection after just a short time.
- ✓ They ask you to start communicating by text or your personal email, away from original site you met them on.
- ✓ Their online profile might not match everything they say.
- ✓ They offer various excuses for why they can't show you more photos of themselves.
- ✓ Their messages are poorly written, inconsistent, or sometimes vague.
- ✓ After gaining your trust, they start telling you stories of bad luck or medical illnesses.
- ✓ They indirectly or directly ask for money, gift cards, or funds to pay credit cards.
- ✓ They delay meeting in person or talking on video chat; when you do arrange to meet, they cancel or postpone due to some emergency.

WHAT TO DO:

- ✓ **DO NOT SEND THEM MONEY OR CALL THEM WITH GIFT CARD NUMBERS.**
- ✓ **Call 855-444-3911** for help anytime.
- ✓ Check the privacy settings on your social media so that you are not sharing personal information on your public profile.
- ✓ Be **very** cautious in accepting friend requests.

www.SafeSeniors.info ♦ 231-726-7104

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