

# ONLINE DATING SCAMS

## HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

You meet someone special on a dating website. Soon he wants to move off the dating site to email or phone calls. He tells you he loves you, but he lives far away — maybe for business, or because he's in the military.

Then he asks for money. He might say it's for a plane ticket to visit you. Or emergency surgery. Or something else urgent.

Scammers, both male and female, make fake dating profiles, sometimes using photos of other people — even stolen pictures of real military personnel. They build relationships — some even fake wedding plans — before they disappear with your money.

## HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- 1 Stop. Don't send money.**  
Never wire money, put money on a prepaid debit card, or send cash to an online love interest. You won't get it back.
- 2 Pass this information on to a friend.**  
You may not have gotten one of these calls, but chances are you know someone who will get one — if they haven't already.

## PASS IT ON!

Want to know more?  
Sign up for scam alerts  
at [ftc.gov/subscribe](https://ftc.gov/subscribe).

## PLEASE REPORT SCAMS

If you spot a scam, please report it to the Federal Trade Commission.

Call the FTC at 1-877-FTC-HELP  
(1-877-382-4357) or TTY  
1-866-653-4261

Go online: [ftc.gov/complaint](https://ftc.gov/complaint)

Your report can help protect other people. By reporting a scam, you can help the FTC's investigators identify the imposters and stop them before they can get someone's hard-earned money. It really makes a difference.

