

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

Romance Scams – Are you a victim or think someone you know maybe?

Unfortunately, this is a scam that we see reported daily, with victims losing many thousands of pounds.

Romance scams involve people being scammed into sending money to criminals who go to great lengths to gain their trust and convince them that they are in a genuine relationship.

They use language to manipulate, persuade and exploit so that requests for money do not raise alarm bells. These requests might be highly emotive, such as criminals claiming they need money for emergency medical care or to pay for transport costs to visit the victim if they are overseas. Criminals will often build a relationship with their victims over time.

Other popular versions of this scam are criminals impersonating famous celebrities or friendship scams, where they will ask you for financial help as a friend or may state that they are aware of an incredible investment opportunity to share. However, all of these are scams.

Many victims are not even aware they are victims and are often in denial, so it is important that family and friends are aware of the signs.

- They may be very secretive about their relationship or provide excuses for why their online partner has not video called or met them in person. They might become hostile or angry and withdraw from conversation when you ask any questions about their partner.
- They may express strong emotions and commitment to someone they have only just met.
- They have sent, or are planning to send, money to someone they have not met face-to-face. They may take out loans or withdraw from their pension to send money.

If you think you have been or a family member or friend is the victim of a romance scam, then report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.



For further information about Fraud, visit our website at [Advice about fraud | Kent Police](http://www.kent.police.uk/advice-about-fraud)

You will also find valuable information from the Home Office at [Stop! Think Fraud - How to stay safe from scams](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/stop-think-fraud)



**Kent
Police**

Report a non-urgent crime online www.kent.police.uk/report
Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 www.kent.police.uk/contact
In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service **18000**.
Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.

www.kent.police.uk   