

Top tips to prevent you becoming a victim of ROMANCE FRAUD

Romance fraud is one of the most evil types of fraud. It targets those who are lonely, or emotionally damaged through bereavement or divorce and exploits their need to be wanted and loved.

Where most types of fraud are largely impersonal without any real or lengthy interaction with the victim, this deception is the complete opposite as it relies upon creating and developing a close personal relationship over weeks or months.

Below are some useful tips to consider to help prevent you becoming a victim of Romance Fraud and keep you safe:



If you have been chatting to the other person via the messaging system on a dating app, continue to use it for as long as possible. Fraudsters will try to persuade you to move to email/text/WhatsApp as they do not want to risk being monitored.



If the other person has provided their mobile number and claims to be in the UK, hide your Caller ID (in 'settings' on your smart phone) so your number doesn't appear. Ring them, and if you hear a foreign ring tone you should be very suspicious.



Do a reverse image search on Google to see if the photograph on their dating profile has been published elsewhere on the Internet.



Ask to have a brief video call. Most people have smartphones these days and anyone who refuses or makes excuses as to why they can't do this should raise your suspicions.



Do some research on other Social Media platforms, anyone who has no presence whatsoever is very unusual.



Be realistic. There are very few people who look like supermodels. If they look too good to be true – they might not be who they claim to be.



Ask a family member or trusted friend to objectively review the other person. Sometimes a fresh pair of eyes, can be incredibly useful.



Refuse to send any money, irrespective of the alleged reason the person gives you. Even sending a small amount convinces them you are gullible and they will come back for much larger amounts.

For further information about Fraud visit
<https://www.policecpi.com/fraud>