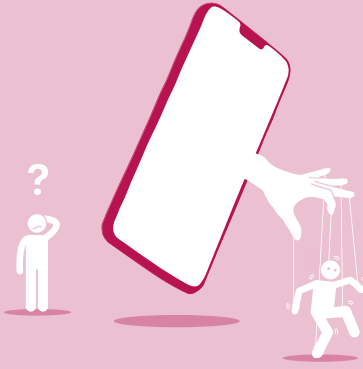


# Is Someone You Know a Victim of Romance Fraud?



Many of our loved ones, such as relatives, spouses, friends, or coworkers, may become victims of a romance scam. Despite the prevalence of this experience, it is often kept quiet because it can be difficult for both the victims and their loved ones to bring up the subject. However, a loved one can help identify a romance scam and help the victim seek help and support.

## Has Your Loved One's Behavior Changed?

Romance scammers manipulate their victims psychologically to make them feel like they are in a relationship and agree to send money. As a result of this manipulation, the victim's behavior and appearance may change in many ways. If you notice any of the signs of romance fraud, it is advisable to take an interest in your loved one's situation and ask how they are doing.



### Sudden Infatuation

Scammers try to get their victims emotionally attached to a fake profile. Has someone close to you suddenly shown strong feelings?



### Immersion in Messaging

Victims often receive almost constant messages from scammers, designed to hook them into the relationship. Is your loved one tired and distant?



### Isolation From Other People

Scammers try to isolate victims from their loved ones so that no one can intervene. Are you seeing your loved one less often than before?



### Stress and Anxiety

Victims may be pressured to send money under the pretense of an emergency. Have you noticed your loved one acting unusually anxious?

## A Loved One's Unexpected Need for Money?



Sending money under pressure from a scammer usually happens via bank transfers, gift cards, or cryptocurrency. Victims may even borrow money from loved ones. They might not reveal the real reason and could lie, which can understandably strain relationships.

## Bring Up the Subject Calmly

Watching a romance scam unfold can be difficult, especially when money is involved. Even though it may be hard, try to stay calm; harsh criticism or insults may only reinforce their attachment to the false relationship.

### Practical Tips

More detailed instructions and information on romance scams can be found at [nettideitturva.fi](http://nettideitturva.fi).

- ✓ Look at the profile of your loved one's chat partner together.
- ✓ Provide your loved one with ways to recognize a romance fraudster.
- ✓ Learn about the phenomenon through the experiences of romance scam victims.

## What Should a Victim of a Romance Scam Do?

If someone close to you tells you that they have been the victim of a romance scam, give them these instructions:

- 🚫 Stop communicating with the perpetrator.
- 📞 Contact your bank, tell them what has happened and follow their instructions.
- 📄 Save all information related to the scam.
- 👮 Report the crime to the police.
- 🙋 Seek help to recover and deal with the situation.



More information about romance scams:  
[nettideitturva.fi/info/in-english](http://nettideitturva.fi/info/in-english)