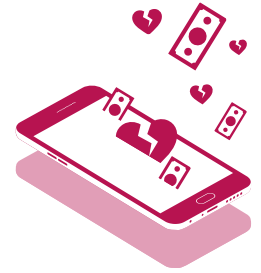


Protect Yourself From Romance Scams

In a romance scam, a scammer pretends to be romantically interested in someone to trick them into sending money. The scammers approach people on social media platforms and online dating apps using fake profiles and stolen photos. After establishing a trusting relationship with the victim, the scammer begins to ask for money, often by inventing emergencies.



How does the scam work?



Romance Scammers Try to Get Money Through Different Methods



Bank transfers: Perpetrators pressure their victims to transfer money to bank accounts, which are usually the accounts of other victims. These "mule accounts" are used for money laundering. *



Gift cards: Perpetrators target gift cards because they are easy to buy, transfer, and difficult to trace. Gift cards also obscure the true value of the money.



Cryptocurrency: Cryptocurrency transfers cannot be reversed or stopped, so lost funds are rarely recovered. It is difficult to determine the true identity of the account owner.

* To launder money, scammers ask their victims to receive money and send it on under the guise of a fictitious emergency. Victims who do so are guilty of money laundering and may be prosecuted and convicted of a criminal offense.

Recognize the Warning Signs



Someone you don't know approaches you online with flattering messages and soon tells you about their strong feelings for you.



They want to quickly move the conversation to a private messaging service (e.g., Telegram and WhatsApp) or email.



Your chat partner says they work abroad in a high-status profession, such as a doctor, officer, or engineer.



Despite their demanding job, they have time to send you constant messages, even at night.

Anyone Can Become a Victim of a Scam

The experience of romance fraud often causes enormous shame, which in the worst cases can prevent victims from seeking help. That's why it's important to remember that anyone can become a victim, regardless of age, gender, or education level. Many aspects of life, such as loneliness, divorce, widowhood, or relationship problems, can make people vulnerable to romance scams.



People who have been victims of romance scams are not unintelligent, but victims of psychological abuse and systematic manipulation.

If You Have Been a Victim of a Romance Scam

- Stop communicating with the scammer.
- Save all information related to the scam.
- Contact your bank, tell them what has happened and follow their instructions.
- 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