

Romance Fraud Who do you think they are?

Alert 3.15

10 February 2022

Bromley Trading Standards are reminding residents to be wary when 'chatting' with people they've met online and keep in mind that they may be fraudsters looking for money - **not** love.

Romance frauds can start as a simple friendly chat on social media, but they then quickly use fake situations to provoke their victim into 'helping' them – for *example*

- Their relative is unwell and needs urgent medication/operation
- They are bound by a work contract overseas and cannot visit you until they 'buy' themselves out of the contract
- They want to start a new life with you but need funds for their airfare

Staying safe from Romance Fraud:

Always remember that online, anyone can pretend to be anyone they want to be

Always keep your personal information private

Always remain on the dating site chat/messaging platform and don't be persuaded to move elsewhere

Always be wary if you are asked to keep secrets from family and friends

Always be wary of someone is asking questions about you but not revealing much about themselves

Never send them money

Never send them gift cards or the codes on the gift card

Never allow them access to your bank account

Never transfer money on their behalf or take out a loan for them

Never give copies of your personal documents like driving licence or passport

Never invest your own money on their advice

Never put yourself in a compromising position

For further information visit:

Action Fraud www.actionfraud.police.uk/a-z-of-fraud/dating-fraud

Which? [Online dating 'romance' scams up 40% through the pandemic – Which? News](https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/481111-online-dating-romance-scams-up-40-through-the-pandemic)

It could be helpful to speak with someone trusted or contact Victim Support on www.victimsupport.org.uk/resources/south-london or 0808 168 9291

Stop | Challenge | Protect

[Take Five - To Stop Fraud | STOP - CHALLENGE - PROTECT - \(takefive-stopfraud.org.uk\)](http://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk)

If you or someone you know has been affected:

REPORT - Protect others by reporting incidents.

- < **If you have paid, contact your bank as soon as possible. Call 159**
- < **Report scams to Action Fraud** on 0300 123 2040 or www.actionfraud.police.uk
- < Forward suspicious email to report@phishing.gov.uk.
- < Forward a suspicious text message to 7726.
- < Report a suspicious website [Report a suspicious website - NCSC.GOV.UK](https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/learn/report-a-suspicious-website).
- < Contact Citizens Advice for help and advice about scams on **0808 223 1133**
- < Contact Victim Support on www.victimsupport.org.uk/resources/south-london or call **0808 168 9291**

You can also visit www.Bromley.gov.uk/scams