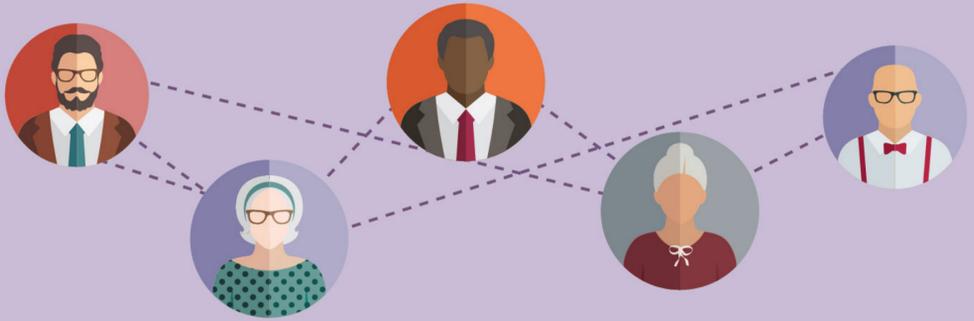


# Online Romance Scams

Has an online love interest or friend asked you for money?

**That's a scam.**



Scammers know millions of people use online dating sites and social media. They are there, too, hiding behind fake profiles.

## Signs of a Scam



Professes love quickly. Claims to be overseas for business, military service, or other reasons.

Asks for money, and lures you off the site where you originally met.



Claims to need money — for emergencies, hospital bills, travel, etc.. Plans to visit, but can't because of an emergency.



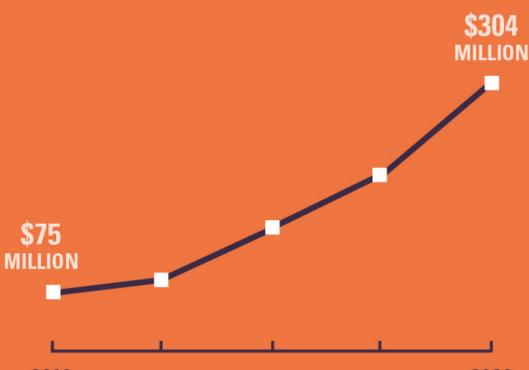
Claims to have investment opportunity, especially involving cryptocurrency (e.g. Bitcoin).

# COSTLIEST SCAM

## REPORTED TO THE FTC IN 2020

# \$304

million lost



## REPORTED MONEY LOSSES INCREASED 4X SINCE 2016

## What to do

1

**Slow down** — and talk to someone you trust. Don't let a scammer rush you.

2

**Never transfer money** from your bank account, buy gift cards, deposit cash into a cryptokiosk, or wire money to an online love interest. You won't get it back.

3

**Contact your bank right away** if you think you've sent money to a scammer.

4

Report your experience to:

- The online dating site
- Federal Trade Commission: **ReportFraud.ftc.gov**

Learn more at [ftc.gov/imposters](https://ftc.gov/imposters) and [aba.com/engagement](https://aba.com/engagement)



 **ABA FOUNDATION**