

My Loved One is in a Romance Scam

A guide on approach, support, and your wellbeing.



A romance scam does not solely impact the victim but also inflicts profound devastation on their loved ones. Witnessing a cherished individual being exploited continuously, with limited power to prevent the abuse, constitutes a distressing form of victimization for those close to the affected individual. We understand.



UNDERSTANDING. SUPPORTING. GUIDING.

Your loved one has undergone emotional and psychological manipulation through grooming. It is important to recognize that scams do not operate on the principle of "ask and you will receive."

Listen and show understanding of the situation. Encourage your loved one to engage in discussions regarding romance scams and consider researching this topic together.

Romance scammers often prey on individuals in vulnerable or isolated circumstances. Once the illusion of a "relationship" is established, manipulation is well in progress.

Avoid assigning blame, whether towards your loved one or the individual perpetrating the scam. Your loved one may feel compelled to shield the fraudster and withhold crucial information regarding the scam.

The manipulation can be incredibly intense, leading your loved one to trust and follow the scammer instead of their loved ones. Followed by keeping personal information and details of their relationship a secret, as requested by the scammer.

Support a loved one after a scam by staying composed, providing assistance, and encouraging them to seek help. Reassure them of your unwavering support with an "open-door policy."

The emotional aftermath of a romance scam can be extremely challenging for your loved one, often leaving them feeling emotionally drained and vulnerable. Tragically, this can sometimes lead to thoughts of or attempts at suicide.

Give your loved one your support and recommendation to seek professional counseling. A romance scam is not just financial abuse, but emotional and psychological abuse.

Advocating Against Romance Scammers
P.O. Box 6112, Fresno, CA. 93701



More Information

www.advocatingforu.com

aars@advocatingforu.com

Support Us





COMMON QUESTIONS FROM LOVED ONES



Is there anything I can do?

Be kind. Learn the logistics of the scam. Understand the abuse involved. Help educate your loved one. Depending on how much access to personal accounts you have with the victim, depends on the depth of help you can provide (closing bank accounts, setting up new phone number, emails, passwords).

What can be done to make them "see" it's a scam?

No single word, article, or show can guarantee that someone will realize they are being scammed.

Will the bank do anything if I'm not on the account?

Banks can make notes when calling and giving information about their members account, however if you are not on the loved one's account, you will not be able to retrieve, only provide information.

Will law enforcement talk to my loved one?

Law enforcement typically engages with the victim to provide insight on scammer warning signs and strategies. Despite their efforts, the manipulation experienced by victims can be profound, sometimes surpassing the impact of any advice, even from law enforcement. In some cases, the victim may only appease rather than fully embrace the guidance given.

Is there any kind of support for victim's loved ones of romance scams?

There are various types of support available for victims of romance scams within the community. Check out these options under the "Resources" section on this page!

TIPS TO HELP ALONG THE WAY

1. Provide educational resources to your loved one.
2. Educate on the importance of keeping personal information private.
3. Encourage your loved one to update all passwords.
4. Recommend to never delete any information provided by the person they are speaking to. Even if they are asked to.
5. Lend an ear, but never lend money. Remind your friend/family of your support and always keep the line of communication open.

TIPS TO HELP POST SCAM

1. Provide understanding and compassion.
2. Encourage your loved one to change all passwords on all social media platforms, banking apps, etc.
3. Have your loved one reach out to their bank. Inform them of the scam, and follow all safety procedures the bank recommends.
4. Make sure all communication throughout the scam was saved along with phone numbers, addresses, names and receipts.
5. Encourage your loved one to open a new email account and obtain a new phone number. These are ways the scammer can/will continue to manipulate the victim.
6. Educate on the importance of not talking to strangers online.
7. Check out the [Your Guide After a Scam Guide](#) on the AARS website!

IF YOUR LOVED ONE IS HAVING SUICIDAL THOUGHTS DIAL 911 OR GO TO YOUR NEAREST EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT.

**SUICIDE & CRISIS HOTLINE:
CALL OR TEXT: 988**



RESOURCES

Support Options

- **Licensed Therapists or Counselor in your area.**
- **Online Licensed Therapist or Counselor:**
 - [Give an Hour](#)
 - [Better Help](#)
- **Support Groups (online/in person)- AARS highly recommends a licensed-ran group.**
 - [Cybercrime Support Network 10 Week Peer Support Program](#)
 - [AARP Fraud Watch Support Group](#)
 - [Scam Survivor Healing](#)
- **Self-education.**
 - [BBBI- Scam Survivor Tool Kit](#)
 - [LifePaths Counseling- YouTube Self-Help with Cathy Wilson LPC](#)

Vetted Sites With More Information on Romance Scams

- [Federal Bureau of Investigation \(FBI\)](#)
- [Federal Trade Commission \(FTC\)](#)
- [Advocating Against Romance Scammers](#)
- [Catch the Catfish](#)
- [Love Said](#)
- [Scam Advisor](#)

Tools to Help Deterimine if it's a Scam

- [Scam Advisor- Check if a website is legit](#)
- [Scam Ranger- Help to verify how likely the words are from a scammer!](#)
- [Tineye- Reverse image search](#)
- [Google Images- Reverse Image search](#)
- [Catch-Tool to help monitor potential scam emails](#)
- [Department of Financial Protection and Innovation](#)

