

Helpful Tips After a Romance Scam

STOP ALL CONTACT and BLOCK THE NUMBER

- Continuing the communication with the scammer can put you in danger of ongoing manipulation and can aid in a scammer's fraud techniques.

Collect ALL Information

- Do Not Delete Anything!
 - It is crucial not to delete any information that could link a scammer to the fraudulent activity. Saving all relevant data will be essential in apprehending the perpetrator.
 - Every name that was given to you.
 - Every phone number the scammer called you from or gave to you.
 - All social media account URLs the scammer works from.
 - All emails the scammer or affiliates used to contact you related to the scam.
 - Any addresses given to you during the duration of the scam.
 - Bank or Crypto account information you gave to the scammer or the scammer gave to you.
 - Screenshots of blackmail, threats or requests for money, photos, and personal information.
 - Any receipts from purchases, money transfers and deposits.

Start making phone calls

- Call your bank(s) to inform them of the scam. Inquire best steps for your situation. Explain everything to them.
 - If your account information was given to the scammer, your accounts will be restricted until the accounts can be closed and new accounts opened for you.
 - If you have on line banking, that will be restricted as well.
- Call and cancel any credit cards you may have given to the scammer.
- Call Social Security Administration if your SSN was shared with the scammer.
- Call or Visit online Credit Bureaus and inform them of what happened.
 - Experian
 - Equifax
 - Transunion

Report the Scam

- Inform you local law enforcement and ask for a case number.
- Make a report to the Internet Crimes Complaint Center (IC3.gov) for criminal cases.
- Report to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC.gov) for consumer protection.
- Crypto-Scams: Email the U.S. Secret Service along with the above mentioned.

Future Online Safety

- Change your password for the following:
 - Bank website
 - On Line Banking
 - Social media and messenger accounts
 - Crypto accounts
 - Credit card website
- Make all social media accounts private.
- Do not respond to messages or friend requests from people you do not know.
- Change your phone number. Scammers will continue to contact you.
- Create a new Email address. Scammers will continue to contact you.

FACT: Scammers will sell your information to other scammers to attempt to revictimize you!