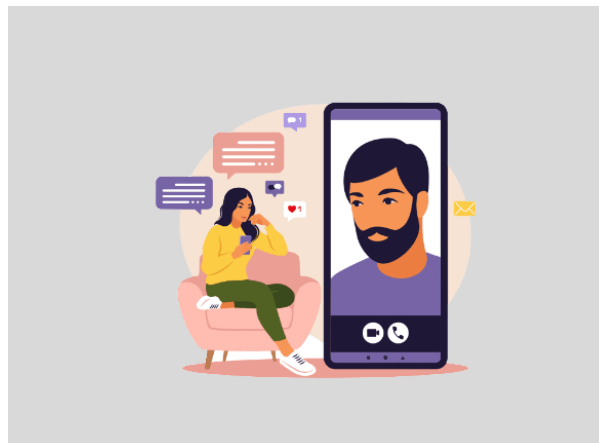# ROMANCE FRAUD ADVICE
PRACTICAL ADVICE TO STAY SAFE ONLINE

www.ocsia.im/advice-guidance/

You don't need to move the conversation

Criminals will try to move the chat to a another platform, such as by asking you to chat by text. There is no good reason for this and it is not necessary until you're sure that you know the person is real.
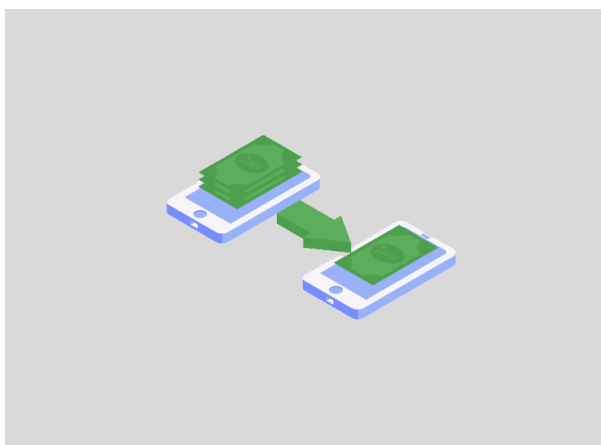
Profile pictures – check whether they're real

Romance fraudsters tend to use photographs taken from the internet. You can quickly check photos using a reverse-image search on websites like www.tineye.com or reverse.photos. These websites will check whether the photos have appeared anywhere else using different names or impersonating someone else.
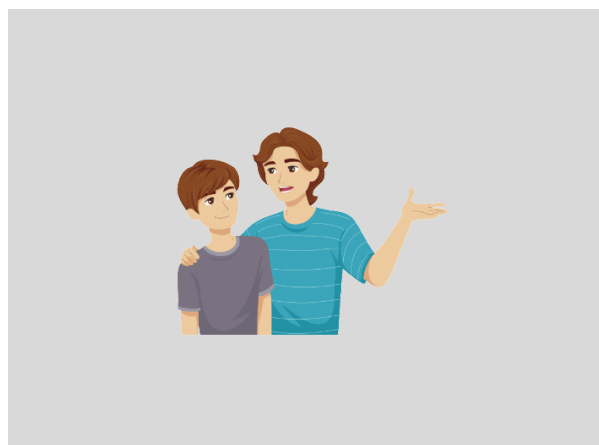
Do your own research on the person

Is this person on other social networking sites? Can you confirm that what they are telling you about themselves seems correct, e.g. where they work or where they live? We all leave a digital footprint when interacting on the internet, if a person you're conversing with only exists on one platform then it's likely they are not real.

Are you sending them money or receiving it?

Never send money to someone you have not met in person or do not have a way of getting the money back if something falls through. Be extremely wary of giving money to someone you have recently met, particularly if you have only recently started a relationship with them.

Talk to family and friend for advice

Criminals will try to convince their victims that a relationship should be a secret. This is because they don't want other people noticing their friend or relative is being scammed.

Useful Resources

Romance Fraud Advice

Cyber Concerns Reporting Point

Crimestoppers Romance Fraud