



Romance Scam Quick-Check Safety Guide

Protect yourself with this checklist you can review anytime.

✓ 1. Identity Verification

Confirm the person is REAL before trusting them:

- They have video-called with you at least once
- They can send a **current** photo on request
- Reverse-image search shows the photo is NOT stolen
- Their social media profiles look real, not newly created
- Their story is consistent over time

✓ 2. Communication Red Flags

Watch for the most common scammer behaviors:

- They profess intense feelings very quickly (“You’re my soulmate”)
- They avoid video calls (“Camera broken”, “Bad Wi-Fi”)
- They message constantly but avoid meeting in person
- They use strange grammar or overly formal wording
- They try to isolate you from friends/family

✓ 3. Emotional Manipulation Signs

Common psychological tactics:

- Sob stories (sick child, dying parent, frozen bank account)
- Sudden crises that “only you can help solve”

- Jealousy or possessiveness if you question anything
- Guilt trips (“I thought you cared for me...”)

✓ 4. Financial Danger Alerts

These are 100% scam indicators:

- Asking for **gift cards**
- Asking for **Cash App, Zelle, Venmo**
- Requesting **cryptocurrency**
- Requesting you pay a **shipping fee or customs fee**
- Suggesting investments that “guarantee returns”
- Asking you to **receive packages** on their behalf
- Requesting your **bank info, passwords, or ID photos**

If **any** of these boxes are checked → **STOP IMMEDIATELY.**

✓ 5. Safety Steps if You Suspect a Scam

- Cut off all communication
- Block them on every app
- Change passwords
- Freeze credit (Experian, Equifax, TransUnion)
- Report to FTC: <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov>
- Report to FBI IC3: <https://ic3.gov>
- Contact your bank if money was sent



Final Reminder

**Real love never asks for money.
Real people can always video call.
Trust actions — not words.**

Stay safe and protect your heart.