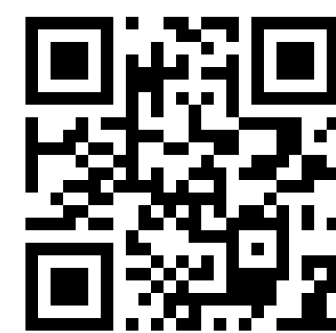




## ADVOCATING AGAINST ROMANCE SCAMMERS



# THE ROMANCE ANTISCAM GUIDE 2023

AARS MISSION:  
MAKE THE  
INTERNET A  
SAFER PLACE FOR  
ALL

### A Romance Scam is...

A criminal hiding behind a fake identity to lure victims into a romantic relationship with the intention of emotionally and psychologically influencing victims into giving the scammer what they want, such as personal information, means of moving money (money laundering), and money.

\*All underlined are links to more information! \*

## HOW TO SPOT A FAKE ACCOUNT

- Does the URL match the account name?
- Is the account new?
- Do they only have friends that are of a particular gender?
- Are they not tagged in photos by other friends?
- Does the account have two first names?
- Is there a lack of content/information in the profile?
- Do the interactions/engagements in comments lack personable substance?
- Is the following ratio much higher than followers?

CRIME  
SCENE



## RED FLAGS

- They reach out first
- They want to move the conversation
- They ask for money/gift cards
- They ask you to open a bank account/crypto account
- They use terms of endearment
- They work from a faraway location
- Poor Grammar
- No Family/may have a child
- They want to send you a package
- Money requests are typically an urgent matter. Everything to be done quickly

## STORIES SCAMMERS USE

- Oil Rig Workers
- Deployed Military
- Celebrities
- Doctors
- Bikini Models
- United Nations Employee
- Any profession with a reason to travel



## STAY SAFE ONLINE

- Educate yourself on platform safety
- Set your social media accounts to "private"
- Familiarize yourself with scammer tactics
- Do not talk to strangers
- Never give out personal information
- Do not send personal photos online





# THE ROMANCE ANTISCAM FACTS AND HELP SHEET

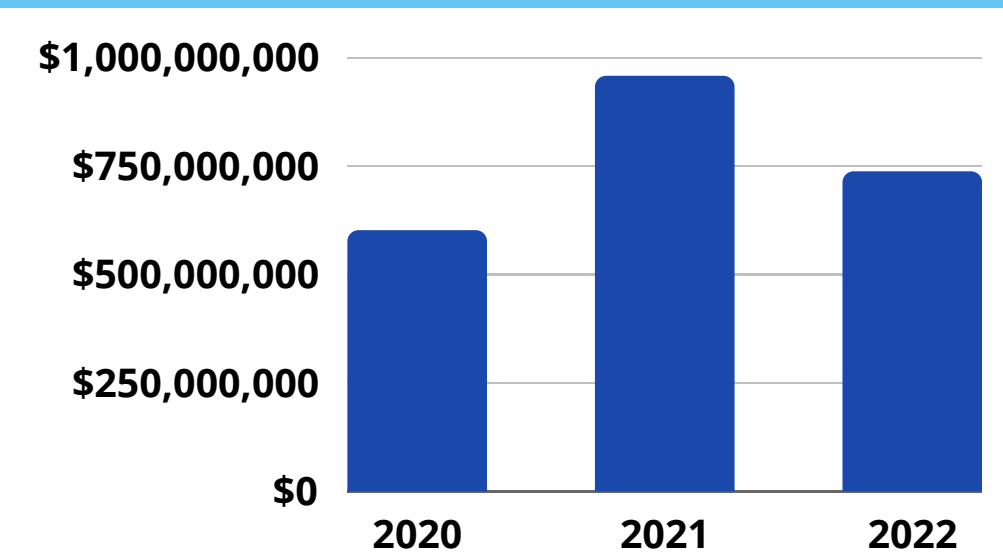
## WHERE TO REPORT AN ONLINE ROMANCE SCAM



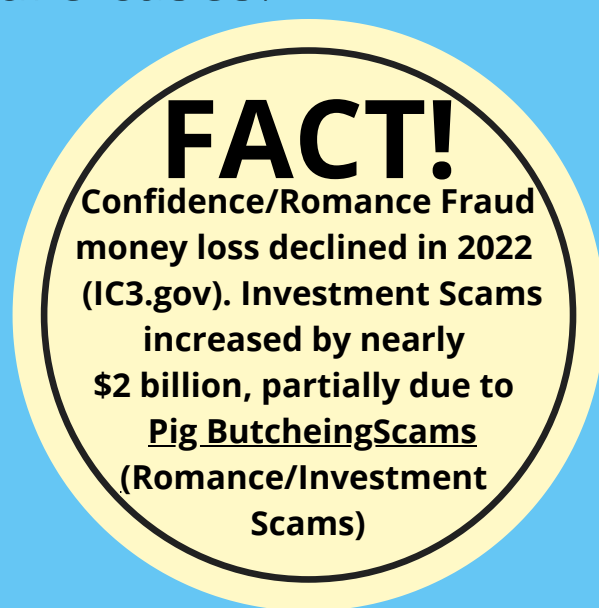
[www.IC3.gov](http://www.IC3.gov)

### INTERNET CRIMES COMPLAINT CENTER (IC3)

The IC3 is the cybercrime reporting site for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). All information is reviewed and kept for current and future cases.



IC3 Reported Losses from Romance Scams Years; 2020-2022



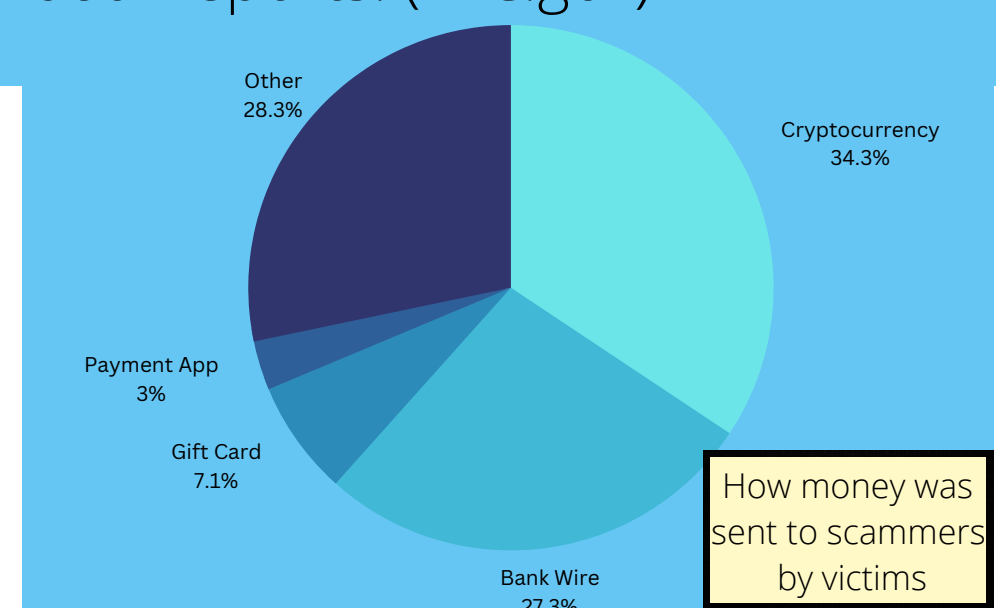
[www.FTC.gov](http://www.FTC.gov)

### FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION (FTC)

The (FTC) "use reports to investigate and bring cases against fraud, scams, and bad business practices. They do not resolve individual reports. (FTC.gov)

- 70,000 PEOPLE REPORTED A ROMANCE SCAM
- FINANCIAL LOSS 1.3 MILLION
- MEDIAN LOSS OF EACH VICTIM: \$4,400.00
- 40% CLAIM THE SCAM STARTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA

FTC Reported facts on Romance Scams in 2022



How money was sent to scammers by victims

## WHERE TO FIND TOOLS/PROFESSIONAL HELP

- [Cybercrime Support Network 10 Week Peer Support Program](#)
- AARP Fraud Watch Hotline-1-877-908-3360 and 1-888-687-2277
- National Elder Fraud Hotline-1-833-FRAUD-11 or 1-833-372-831
- [How to Use Google Reverse Image Search to Fact Check \(TOOL\)](#)
- [Scam Survivor Healing](#)
- [AARP Fraud Watch Support Group](#)
- [Scam Survivor Healing education/support](#)
- [Identity Theft Resource Center](#)
- [Scam Ranger-Verify a Scammers Message \(TOOL\)](#)
- [Facecheck.ID-Reverse Image Search \(TOOL\)](#)

## LINKS TO ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

### Articles

- [Feints of Heart](#) by Jeff Yates
- [Online Imposters Break Hearts and Bank Accounts. FBI](#)
- [Online Romance Scams: A BBB Study on "How Scammers Use Impersonation, Blackmail, and Trickery to Steal from Unsuspecting Daters"](#) BBB
- ["This Army Veteran Became the Face of Military Romance Scams. Now He's Fighting Back"](#) by David Leffler

### Documentaries

- [Meet The Scammers](#)
- [Romance Scams: Manipulation, Deception and Digital Extortion](#)
- [The Invisible Man: Uncovering a Global Online Romance Scam.](#)
- [Facebook Love Scams: Who's Really Behind that Friend Request.](#)

### Books

- [Scammed in America](#) by Dorothy Harding
- [The Psychology of Fraud Persuasion, and Scam Techniques](#) by Martina Dove
- [The Emotional Impact of Being Scammed and How to Recover](#) by Cathy Wilson

### Podcast

- [Scammer Stories](#)
- [The Perfect Scam](#)
- [What the Hack](#)

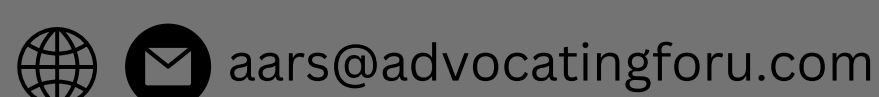
### Websites

- [Advocating Against Romance Scammers](#)
- [Cybercrime Support Network](#)
- [AARP](#)

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Support us



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ROMANCE SCAMMERS