

Be in the know like Jo!

When looking for love online, watch out for people trying to commit a crime.

Every year thousands of hopefuls sign up to dating Apps and websites looking for that special someone. For many this will end in a meaningful relationship but for others it could mean the end of their dreams – and their savings.

Things to consider when looking for love online

- How do they look on their profile picture? Professional photos with supermodel looks could be a red flag.
- Avoid giving away too many personal details when dating online. Revealing your full name, date of birth and home address may lead to your identity being stolen.
- Pick a reputable dating website and use the site's messaging service. Criminals want to quickly switch to social media or texting so there's no evidence of them asking for money.
- Is it "love at first sight" for your prospective partner? Beware those who want to get too close, too quickly.
- Do you know who they really are – have you met their friends, family, work colleagues?
- Are you being asked for money to help out with some emergency - lost passport, relative in danger, even expensive treatment for an illness. All of these have been used to con people out of money.
- You can always do a bit of sleuthing if it all sounds too good to be true. Question them and ask for facts that you can verify.



Finally

- Never send or receive money or give away your bank details to someone you've only met online, no matter how much you trust them or believe their story.