



SCAM ALERT!

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Montgomery County Prosecutor

Beware of Cupid - Romance Scams



More people than ever are now relying on the internet to look for love. This dynamic has increased people being cheated - out of their money. Some looking for romance end up stumbling upon a scammer asking for money. In 2020, there was over \$304 million in losses based on dating/romancing scams. This number was up over 50% from 2019.

Scammers create fake profiles and look for trusting companions on social media sites. They use the veil of the internet to build relationships. After developing trust, they then find a way to take money from their newfound "love." For example, scammers represent that they have a job that puts them outside of the country. They then ask for funds to pay for:

- Plane tickets;
- Surgery or medical expenses;
- Customs fees;
- Visas or travel documents.

Scammers then ask that money be wired to their accounts. If you suspect a romance scam, immediately:

- Stop communicating with the person;
- Do a search for the type of job explained and whether there are like and similar scams reported online.

Bottom line, never send money to a romantic partner that you have never met in person.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS IF YOU THINK YOU ARE BEING SCAMMED:

- Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office: 937-225-5757 and ask for our consumer fraud division.

The above ALERT is part of the Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney's initiative to help citizens become aware of ways they can avoid becoming a victim, or ways they can help stop criminal activity that may be occurring. Upon request, the office can provide presentations on

crime prevention actions and activities to halt crime and increase the quality of life in our community.

If you would like additional information on the above ALERT, or would like additional information regarding our programs to assist consumers in general and/or seniors in particular, please contact Kimberly Melnick, Supervising Attorney, Adult Protection Unit, or Anthony Schoen, Supervising Attorney, Fraud and Economic Crimes Unit at 937-225-5757.

Visit Our Website

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