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FIGHT AGAINST LOVE SCAM

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MODULE 2

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INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS A LOVE SCAM?

A love scam is a form of emotional and financial manipulation where a person pretends to seek a romantic or emotional relationship online, with the hidden goal of gaining **money, personal information, or control**.

Love scams often begin **gently**. Messages feel kind, caring, and flattering. The scammer makes the victim feel special, understood, and emotionally connected very quickly. This emotional closeness is not accidental, it is a **strategy**.



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INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS A LOVE SCAM?

Important to Remember

- Being targeted is not your fault
- Scammers are trained and experienced
- Anyone can be targeted regardless of age, education, or experience
- Early awareness is the strongest form of protection

This information pack will help you:

- Recognise early warning signs
- Understand where scammers operate online
- Learn how to respond safely and confidently

EARLY WARNING SIGNS OF A LOVE SCAMMER

1. A "Too Perfect" Online Profile

Be cautious if someone:

- Looks like a **model or celebrity**
- Has **very few photos**
- Has **no tagged** pictures or real-life posts
- Has a **new or mostly empty profile**
- **Avoids sending** recent selfies or videos

Scammers often use stolen or **AI-generated images**.



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EARLY WARNING SIGNS OF A LOVE SCAMMER



2. Love Bombing

Love bombing is when someone expresses **strong romantic feelings very quickly**, such as:

- “You are my soulmate”
- “I’ve never felt this way before”
- “I feel such a deep connection with you”

Real relationships take time. **Intense emotions after only a few messages are a red flag.**

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EARLY WARNING SIGNS OF A LOVE SCAMMER

3. Inconsistent or Dramatic Life Stories

Scammers claim jobs that **explain why they cannot meet**:

- Doctor/engineer working abroad
- Military officer
- Businessperson constantly travelling
- Widowed single parent

Watch for:

- Vague answers
- Changing stories
- Dramatic/tragic life events

If something feels confusing or unrealistic, trust your **instinct.**



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UNDERSTANDING SCAMMER PATTERNS

Pattern 1: Isolation

Scammers try to separate you from others:

- “They don’t understand us”
- “Let’s keep this private”
- “Others may be jealous”

Isolation creates **control.**

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UNDERSTANDING SCAMMER PATTERNS

Pattern 2: Urgency

Crises appear suddenly and feel emotional:

- “I’m stuck”
- “I need help now”
- “You’re the only one I trust”

Urgency blocks rational thinking.



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UNDERSTANDING SCAMMER PATTERNS

Pattern 3: Escalation

Requests **grow over time**:

- €20 → €50 → €150 → thousands

Each request feels justified by a **new story**.

Pattern 4: Emotional Fatigue

Constant messaging creates **dependence**:

- Sweet → distant → apologetic
- Emotional highs and lows

This makes it **harder to step away**.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

If You Suspect a Scam

- Stop responding
- **Do not** send money
- Take screenshots
- **Block** the account
- **Report** the profile

If money or personal data was shared:

- Contact local authorities
- Talk to family or educators
- Seek professional support



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SPEAKING UP IS A FORM OF PROTECTION

Many people stay silent because of **embarrassment or fear of judgment**.

But speaking up:

- Helps you get **support**
- **Prevents** further harm
- **Protects others** in your community

Stopping a scam before serious harm happens is a **success**.

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A FINAL MESSAGE

Online relationships should feel **safe, respectful, and calm.**

Not **urgent, secretive, or stressful.**

Trust grows **slowly.**

Real connections **do not demand secrecy.**

Love does **not ask for money.**

By learning these patterns and warning signs, you are already **protecting yourself** and helping create a safer digital space for others.

Your awareness is your power.



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