

love fraud

By [Patty L.](#) Posted: Fri., Apr. 25, 2008 , 4:35 pm EDT



Love Fraud

Imagine: You meet a great guy online. You e-mail each other for months and gradually start talking on the phone. He decides to fly out and visit you, but right before he's about to book his ticket, someone steals his wallet. So you send him a \$300 check. He cashes it, and you go to the airport, looking your best, but he never shows. You've been the victim of a romance scam. And [you're not alone](#). Barb Sluppick runs [romancescams.org](#), a website geared toward victims of such crimes. Her site boasts 30,000 members, and 883 of those members admitted to losing a total of \$8,244,800.05 in love-related frauds. How do you avoid becoming a victim? Always Google the potential love of your life, to check his story out. Don't give out your social security number or home address. Beware terrible spellers who rely on emoticons. And check the time zone of your online buddy's e-mails. If he says he's writing you from work at his day job in Maine, but you see his e-mail was sent at 3 am, he may really be writing from another country. Have you ever been the victim of fraud, romance-wise or otherwise?

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