Romance and Crypto Investment Scams

Some scammers spend weeks or months building trust online, then pitch a "can't-lose" investment or ask for money. Losses can be life-changing.

Warning signs

- A new online friend or love interest who can never meet in person or video chat for real.
- Talk turns to crypto, trading apps or a "special platform" that shows big gains.
- You're told to pay taxes or fees before you can withdraw your money.
- They ask you to keep the relationship or investment secret.

Stay safe

- **Never send money** or crypto to someone you've only met online.
- Do a reverse image search on their photos; scammers often steal or AI-generate them.
- Check any investment with your bank or a licensed advisor first. Look up firms at BrokerCheck (brokercheck.finra.org).
- Talk it over with a friend or family member. Scammers count on secrecy.

Report it: ReportFraud.ftc.gov | FBI: ic3.gov | Identity theft: IdentityTheft.gov | Age 60+: National Elder Fraud Hotline **833-FRAUD-11 (833-372-8311)**. Free help from Netivo: **(913) 349-3363**.