

Date February 18, 2022

Attorney General Moody's Week In Review - Feb. 18, 2022



This week, I issued a Consumer Alert on Valentine's Day warning Floridians about online dating scams. Dating websites and applications are growing in popularity, with some estimates showing roughly [44 million](#) Americans logged on to find companionship last year alone—[26 million](#) using a dating app on a smartphone.

Along with the increase in users, comes an increase in fraud. The [Federal Trade Commission reports](#) that more than half a billion dollars were lost in 2021, and the prevalence of romance scams increased nearly 80% compared to 2020.

If you use one of these dating websites or apps, be cautious. Once a scammer successfully gains a victim's trust, they begin laying traps to access personal or financial information. Victims can be pressured to send money, provide sensitive information or even ship valuable items and gifts to the scammer.

To avoid falling prey:

- Only interact with verified profiles;
- Never send money to anyone you meet online on a dating website;
- Inform a trusted friend or family member before meeting a match in person; and
- Ask detailed questions while staying alert to any inconsistencies in the conversation.

Many dating apps now offer enhanced security measures. Consider using a platform that offers background checks, profile verification and other screening tools to filter out fake profiles.

For more tips, check out my *Scams at a Glance: Swindling Sweethearts* resource at [MyFloridaLegal.com/ScamsAtAGlance](https://www.MyFloridaLegal.com/ScamsAtAGlance). Remember, by taking steps to prevent scams, you can help us build a Stronger, Safer Florida.



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