

The ABA Foundation in collaboration with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) released an infographic on the growing threat of online dating scams. According to the FBI, over \$220 million was lost in 2016 to online romance scam artists.

Social media networks and dating websites have become increasingly popular tools for meeting and communicating. Unfortunately, fraudsters have capitalized on this trend and often create fake profiles to lure in victims, establish romantic relationships and eventually, extort money. Older Americans in particular have been targeted by this type of scam.

The infographic, available in both English and Spanish, identifies common signs of an online dating scam and offers consumers advice on how to avoid falling victim. If you're concerned that you or a loved one are being scammed, the ABA Foundation and FTC recommend taking the following precautions:

- **Slow down** – and talk to someone you trust. Don't let a scammer rush you.
- **Never wire money**, put money on a gift or cash reload card, or send cash to an online love interest. You won't get it back.
- **Contact your bank right away** if you think you've sent money to a scammer.
- Report your experience to:
 - The online dating site
 - FTC at ftc.gov/complaint FBI at ic3.gov

To view the infographic, visit aba.com/OnlineDatingScams.

