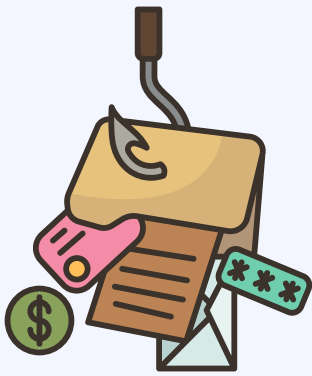
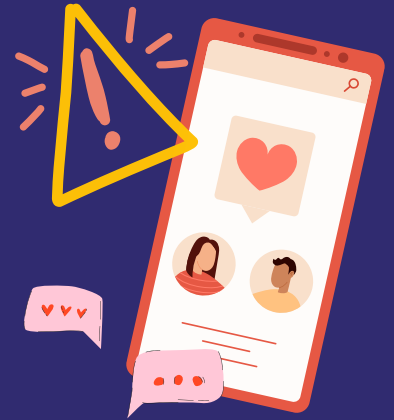


ODLAN presents

Online dating stories from Rainbow Seniors

These stories are anonymously shared from community members. Some details have been changed to protect the identity of the storyteller.



The Sugar Test

As an older guy on gay dating apps, I've developed a quick and effective strategy for weeding out men who are only looking for a sugar daddy. Whenever an unusually attractive, much younger person sends me a flattering message out of nowhere, I ask: "Are you looking for sugar?" Almost every time, the answer is yes. Rather than feel insulted, I just say that my finances aren't available for that kind of arrangement and I move on. This is a big time-saving filter rather than a disappointment later on."

If someone's opening move is over-the-top flattery from a profile that seems too good to be true, consider asking directly what they're looking for. Don't waste your time building a connection with someone who only wants you for your money.



WhatsApp Scammers

“When I started a chat with someone on the app, the other person would suggest moving to a different platform (usually WhatsApp) to continue chatting. I always say no to switching to WhatsApp.”

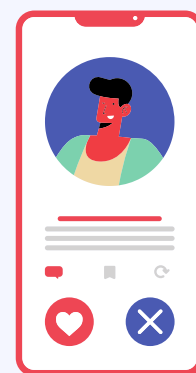
Dating apps are designed for connection within the platform, and pushing to move elsewhere often means the person wants to take the interaction off a monitored space. It can also be a way to harvest your phone number or email. If someone you've just started talking to insists on moving to another platform before you've built any real rapport, consider it a warning sign worth taking seriously.



The Fake Photo

I started chatting with someone whose profile photos seemed suspiciously perfect. The filters were turned up and the lighting looked weird. Eventually, I agreed to meet in person, only to find the person looked completely different from their pictures. When I confronted him, he insisted that he had never claimed the photos were of himself! I walked away on the spot, but the incident stuck with me as a cautionary tale about profile photos.”

When on dating apps, look for pictures that feel real. Look for ones that are a little imperfect, a little candid. If every photo looks like a professional shoot, be skeptical. And always try to do a quick video call before meeting someone in person for the first time.

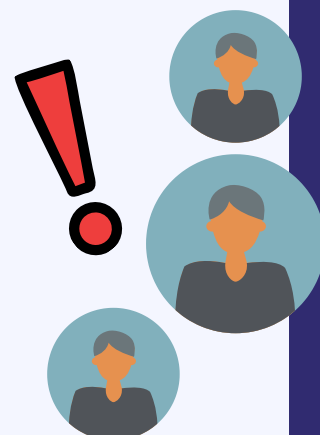


Fake Dubai Crown Prince tracked to Nigerian mansion after \$2.5M romance scam



The Stolen Face

While browsing the apps, I noticed something unsettling: different profiles kept appearing with the exact same photo. The name changed, the listed distance changed, even the bio would be different, but the face was always identical. I had set my profile to only respond to people who showed their faces, but these scammers were finding a way around it by recycling the same stolen image.”



The lesson they learned was simple: if you see the same face on multiple profiles with different names, block and report immediately. Scammers often operate at scale, running dozens of fake accounts at once. If you're suspicious, try doing a reverse-image search of the profile photo.

No Location, No Trust

“After years of online dating experience, I have developed an ironclad rule: if a profile has no listed location, it's a scam – every single time, no exceptions. I noticed that scammers consistently leave the location field blank, likely because listing a real city would make their inconsistencies easier to spot. This small detail became one of my most reliable red flags.”

Before investing any time in a new conversation, always check for a location first. It costs nothing and could save you from being drawn into a manipulative exchange.



The Uber bait-and-switch

“After a few days of chatting on Grindr, this younger guy seemed interested in coming over (I offered to host). The chemistry felt real and asked all the right questions. Then, just as plans to meet were coming together, he asked for \$30 to pay for an Uber. I agreed, since the amount was so small. The moment he got it, he blocked me.”

This "small ask" technique is a well-known scam tactic: the amount is kept low enough that it feels reasonable and generous to help, but the goal was never to meet at all. If someone you've never met in person asks you to send money for any reason – no matter how small or logical it sounds – treat it as a red flag and do not send anything.



These stories remind us that online scams can happen to anyone.

Everyone deserves access to the knowledge and resources they need to stay safe and support the people they care about.

To learn more about queer senior dating scams & strategies to protect yourselves & your loved ones, visit:

[Ink.bio/s/SafeguardingRainbowSeniors](https://ink.bio/s/SafeguardingRainbowSeniors)