



## The Investigator Newsletter

### How AI Is Transforming Romance Scams



#### AI and Deepfakes: How Romance Scams Have Evolved

##### About Us

Since 2000, BCSI Investigations Inc. has performed thousands of successful investigations. Our integrated team of investigators and support services ensure that the investigations are conducted promptly with leading-edge techniques.

##### AI and Deepfakes: How Romance Scams Have Evolved

As we move through 2026, the traditional "catfish" has been replaced by a much more sophisticated predator. Artificial Intelligence has fundamentally changed the landscape of online fraud, making it harder than ever to distinguish a soulmate from a script.

##### The Rise of Synthetic Personalities

Gone are the days of grainy, stolen profile pictures. Scammers now use generative AI to create entirely new, non-existent faces that cannot be found via a reverse image search. Even more dangerous is the use of Real-Time Deepfakes. A scammer can now use AI overlays during a video call to mimic

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the face and voice of the person in their profile, effectively neutralizing the old advice to "just hop on a FaceTime call".

Modern romance scams have shifted toward a sophisticated "long game". Instead of asking for money for an emergency, the scammer positions themselves as a financial mentor. They build a deep, romantic bond over several months, eventually sharing "insider tips" on cryptocurrency or gold trading. They guide the victim toward a professional-looking (but fake) investment platform. To build trust, they even allow the victim to withdraw small "profits" early on. Once the victim is convinced and invests their life savings, the scammer freezes the account and disappears, leaving the victim with both emotional and financial devastation.

### Protecting Yourself

In this high-tech environment, the best defense is financial boundaries. No matter how real a person feels or how much their "video" looks like them, a request for money or investment advice from someone you haven't met in person is a 100% guarantee of a scam.

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