



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MINISTRY OF FINANCE



# ROMANCE SCAM/FRAUD

Alert/005/2021

*The FIUTT has recorded STR/SAR submissions with **approximately 100 victims** of suspected Romance Scam/Fraud. This represents a loss of over **TTD 2.3 Million** to vulnerable citizens in **18 months**.*



## INDICATORS OF ROMANCE SCAM/FRAUD...?

### Persons who:

- promise **RELATIONSHIPS**;
- promise **GIFTS**;
- promise to **VISIT T&T** to become engaged or get married;
- instruct you to **PAY FUNDS** into a **3rd party personal savings account** (in T&T) for foreign shipping payments;
- claim to be sending cash with a gift and **Customs has held it until you PAY a FEE**;
- claim you have to **PAY FEES for anti-money laundering clearance**;
- claim that your personal gift and cash is being **shipped through Diplomatic channels**.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD DO...?

- **Stop communicating** with the person immediately!
- **Never transfer money** from your bank account or wire money to that 'love interest'! You will never get it back!
- **Contact your bank** immediately if you believe you sent or deposited money to a scammer!
- **Talk to someone you trust**. If your friends or family say they are troubled about your new 'love interest', then take heed...pay attention!
- **Do your own internet searches** on the person and/or whom they claim to be! You can also browse the comments on blogs about romance scams to hear other stories.
- **Do a reverse image search** of the person's profile picture. That way you will see if it's linked to another person's name or details that don't match! Those are signs of a scam.

**DON'T BECOME A VICTIM OF ROMANCE SCAM/FRAUD!!!**

## How to Report Romance Scam/Fraud...?

If you are a victim or you believe that your family or friend is a victim of a Romance Scam/Fraud,

**please call the Trinidad and Tobago Police, Fraud Squad**

at **Telephone: 1(868) 625-2310; 1(868) 623-2644 and 1(868) 652-8594** or **Email: fraud@ttps.gov.tt.**

You may also send a disclosure to the **FIUTT at fiutt@gov.tt.**

Provide all the details of your communication with the fraudster.

**Take Action**

# DON'T GET CAUGHT!!!