



# 911 Public Safety Newsletter

February 2026

## ROMANCE SCAMS

Know the signs, protect yourself, and report.



### Protect your heart and your bank account

Do you have a parent or grandparent living on their own? Older adults who are lonely, isolated, or grieving the loss of a spouse are often prime targets for romance scammers. These criminals are skilled manipulators who look for emotional vulnerabilities and exploit them without remorse. According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), many romance scams begin with an unexpected message on social media or a dating platform. While the stories may differ, the motive is always the same: they want your money.

**A Roseville resident's experience highlights how devastating these scams can be.**

In March 2025, a Roseville resident met a woman on a dating website and quickly moved the relationship to private messaging. As the relationship grew, she began asking for financial help, first claiming a family member had died and left her 455 kilograms of gold. She said more than \$1 million was needed to release the gold from storage and cover the taxes. Over several months, the victim transferred more than \$1 million to cover supposed taxes, legal fees, medical bills, and other expenses. The entire story was a fabrication.

The FTC warns that romance scammers often follow predictable patterns. Knowing the signs can help protect you or someone you love:

- **They can't meet in person.** Scammers often claim they're overseas, traveling, working on an oil rig, serving in the military, or employed by an international organization. There's always a reason they can't meet, no matter how long you've been communicating.
- **They ask for money.** Once trust is established, requests begin. They may ask for help paying medical bills, buying a plane ticket to visit, covering visa costs, or paying

unexpected fees to get out of trouble. Some even pitch cryptocurrency or investment opportunities as a way to build a future together.

- **They control how you pay.** Scammers push payment methods that are fast and nearly impossible to reverse. This may include wiring money through services like Western Union or MoneyGram, purchasing gift cards and sharing the PINs, sending funds through money transfer apps, or transferring cryptocurrency.

All of these tactics are designed to create urgency and pressure you into acting quickly, before you have time to think, verify, or ask questions. That pressure is the warning sign. When emotions are rushed, and money is demanded, it's not love—it's a scam.

If you or someone you know has lost money to a romance scammer or believes personal information may have been stolen, report it immediately to the FTC at [www.reportfraud.ftc.gov](http://www.reportfraud.ftc.gov) and file a report with your local police department. Speaking up can help protect others from becoming the next victim.

## The new year means new DMV laws



It's February, and 2026 is already moving full speed ahead. With the new year came several new California laws that took effect on January 1, 2026.

Here are a few important new laws every California driver should be aware of:

### "Slow Down, Move Over" — AB 390

This law expands the long-standing "move over" requirement. Drivers approaching any stationary vehicle must now slow down and change lanes when possible—not just emergency vehicles. The rule now includes marked highway maintenance vehicles and vehicles

displaying flashing hazard lights or other warning devices, helping protect roadside workers and stranded motorists.

### License Plate Obstruction or Alteration - AB 1085

California is cracking down on illegal license plate covers and devices. Manufacturing a product in California that obscures or interferes with the visual or electronic reading of a license plate is now an infraction punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000. The law targets tools commonly used to evade tolls or conceal vehicles involved in criminal activity.

### Off-Highway Electric Motorcycles - SB 586

Off-highway electric motorcycles, often referred to as "eMotos," are now officially classified as off-highway motor vehicles (OHVs). This means they must comply with OHV regulations, including displaying a DMV-issued identification plate or placard. The change brings consistency and clarity as electric off-road vehicles grow in popularity.

### School Zone Speed Limits — AB 382

To improve safety around schools, this law lowers the school zone speed limit from 25 miles per hour to 20 miles per hour. While the change does not take effect until January 1, 2031, it gives communities time to prepare while reinforcing California's commitment to protecting children and reducing serious traffic injuries.

### Duplicate Driver's License After a Change of Address — SB 506

Drivers can now request a duplicate driver's license after changing their address. Previously, duplicate licenses were limited to cases involving loss, damage, or a legal name change. This update makes it easier for drivers to keep their identification current and accurate.

These are just a few of the new DMV-related laws now in effect. To see the complete list and learn more, visit [dmv.ca.gov](http://dmv.ca.gov) and search "2026 new laws." Staying informed helps keep you compliant and safer on California roads.



## ACATS Scam: What you need to know

An **ACATS scam** (Automated Customer Account Transfer Service) occurs when a criminal secretly transfers a victim's investment assets from a legitimate brokerage account into one they control.

### How the Scam Works

ACATS is designed to move assets quickly, often within **three business days**, with minimal human review. Scammers exploit this speed.

1. **Identity Theft:** The criminal steals

personal information such as a name, Social Security number, address, and brokerage account details, often through data breaches or phishing.

2. **Fake Account Setup:** Using the stolen identity, the scammer opens a new brokerage account at another firm, using contact information they control.
3. **Transfer Request:** The scammer initiates an ACATS transfer from the new account. Because ACATS is a *pull-only* system, the request comes from the receiving firm.
4. **Automatic Approval:** The original brokerage sees matching names and SSNs and processes the transfer, often without contacting the customer.
5. **Cash-Out:** Once assets arrive, the thief liquidates them and moves the money, frequently into

cryptocurrency, making it difficult to trace.

### How to Protect Yourself

- **Monitor your accounts** monthly for unfamiliar activity or missing assets.
- **Enable account locks** or transfer restrictions if your brokerage offers them (such as ACATS or money transfer lockdowns).
- **Use strong security:** unique passwords and multi-factor authentication on all financial accounts.
- **Freeze your credit** to help prevent broader identity theft.
- **Protect your personal information** and be alert to phishing emails, texts, or calls.

### Act Fast

If you spot an unauthorized transfer, **contact your brokerage immediately** and file a police report. Many firms offer fraud protection, but only if the incident is reported promptly.

## Roseville residents scammed

**Beat:** 6

**Date:** 11/21/25

**Neighborhood:** Quail Glen

On November 21, 2025, at approximately 11:00 AM, the victim received a call from a blocked number. A male caller, claiming to be from the Placer County Jail, informed her that her daughter needed to take "risk and redemption classes" for a DUI arrest the previous night. The victim confirmed her daughter had been arrested for a DUI, lending credibility to the call. The male demanded immediate payment to prevent her daughter from facing further trouble and to reduce potential fines. The suspect sent the victim multiple barcodes via text message with instructions for transferring the money. The victim withdrew \$3,200 in cash from a bank and proceeded to several Roseville retail locations, where she scanned the barcodes and transferred the cash to the specified recipient. The victim complied with the suspect's instruction to flush the receipts down the toilet after the transactions. The male subsequently requested more money, but at this point, the victim suspected a scam and contacted the Roseville Police Department.

**Prevention Tip:** Be highly skeptical of unsolicited calls demanding immediate payment, especially if they involve family members in legal trouble. Legitimate law enforcement or government agencies will never demand payment via gift cards, wire transfers, or barcoded cash transfers. Verify the caller's identity by hanging up and calling the official agency's published phone number.

**Beat:** 7

**Date:** 12/21/25

**Neighborhood:** Fiddymont Farm

The victim reported his dog went missing on Wednesday, December 17, 2025. He distributed flyers containing a photo of the dog, the last known location, his address, and phone number. An unknown female contacted the victim, claiming to have found the dog and demanding a reward. The victim agreed to a \$1,000 reward and sent \$500 via Cash App, with plans to pay the remaining amount upon retrieving the dog. After receiving the payment, the suspect threatened to rehome the dog if the remaining money was not sent, repeatedly pressuring the victim through calls and text messages.

**Prevention Tip:** Avoid sending money to individuals claiming to have found missing pets without verification, and limit personal information shared on public flyers and online posts.

**Beat:** 6

**Date:** 12/18/25

**Neighborhood:** Blue Oaks

On December 18, 2025, the victim received a text message claiming to be from the Social Security Office, stating his Social Security number had been suspended and instructing him to call a provided number. During the call, the victim was asked for personal information and told he must pay fees to reinstate his Social Security number. Following the suspect's instructions, the victim withdrew \$3,767 in cash from one credit union, \$13,058 from another, and \$5,369 from a third, falsely stating the funds were for landscaping work. He was later approached by an unknown male who provided a six-digit code and collected the cash. At approximately 4:00 p.m., the victim received a follow-up call directing him to deposit an additional \$1,100 at Walmart using a barcode provided by the suspects.

**Prevention Tip:** Government agencies do not demand payment via cash, gift cards, or barcodes; report suspected scams immediately and do not share personal or financial information over the phone.

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Community Events  
& Neighborhood Watch  
PDCommunityServices@roseville.ca.us  
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Please send comments or suggestions to: [pdccommunityservices@roseville.ca.us](mailto:pdccommunityservices@roseville.ca.us) or call (916) 774-5050.  
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