

Specialised Security Services



PROJECT: KNOCKS AND SCAMS

THE SWEETHEART SCAM



Part of me thinks that he's going to come through and pay me back what he owes me and,





'My dear, I'm sorry, but I have no Bank account. I tried to open a Bank account. but I refused to open a Bank account. I was in several banks. But they all refuse. I don't know why. My darling, also opening a Bank account will take a very long time, until about 2 months. That's why I suggested you MoneyGram. But you can also use Western Union.'

We are receiving more and more cases referred to us by adult children with regards to their affluent, divorced or widowed parent, trapped in a relationship with a younger man or woman whom the rest of the family do not trust. By this time the lonely and elderly parent is already head-over-heels in love and not listening to any reasoning.

The Sweetheart Scam is one of the most widely utilized modes of preying upon a victim for financial gain. It's a scheme that can be perpetrated online or in person.

The perpetrators have infiltrated the parent's life to such an extent that they have won over their devotion, loyalty, trust and at that stage probably quite a large sum of money too. They spin a web of elaborate lies and promises and even when they have spent or lost all of the money, they will continue with their schemes and their deceit. They will improvise another sly system of how they will get the lost money back or even double it.

And then, when the last cent is spent, they will disappear without a trace.

WAYS TO IDENTIFY A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

1. THEY USE YOUR EMOTIONS.

Emotions are key to these predictors. They manipulate affluent, divorced women and men with continuous and repeated compliments, early and exaggerated love-declarations, and promises they never intend to keep. These scammers are cunning and manipulative, with a glib and superficial charm.

2. THEY MOVE FAST.

Their aim is to quickly build trust to get what they want from you in the most efficient manner before they move on to the next victim. They will force the relationship to escalate much quicker than a normal relationship. They completely lack remorse or guilt and will only focus on the end-goal, which is self-enrichment.

3. THEIR STORY DOESN'T ADD UP AND IS NOT CONSISTENT.

If you feel like they've fabricated parts of their story or obviously embellished details, then watch out. Anyone that does this has other agendas like trying to impress you and build rapport.

4. THEY LOOK TROUBLED.

They look troubled and can seem to be unreasonably agitated when things do not go their way. They are never truly in the moment but make the sweetheart out to be the guilty party. They live a parasitic lifestyle, deceiving everyone they come into contact, with their grandiose self-esteem. They will never take any responsibility for their own actions.

5. THEY ARE IMPATIENT.

They're impatient. As they are only out for themselves, they want to get it done quickly. They don't deal with normal conversation well because that's not what they want. If they are pushy and nervous, be wary.

WAYS TO PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST THESE SCAMMERS

1. BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF.

Look in the mirror and ask yourself the most important question: "Why would a much younger individual want anything to do with me?"

What is this person getting out of a relationship with you? If you discover anything pertaining to money in your answer, you know you are heading for trouble.

2. <u>NEVER TRANSFER MONEY TO ANYONE.</u>

This is especially important if you're communicating with a stranger living overseas whom you've never met in person.

3. KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FAMILY AND LONG-STANDING FRIENDS.

Share your new social interests and friendships with them. Your loved ones usually have your best interest at heart and can be trusted to provide honest advice and guidance.

3. DO YOUR HOMEWORK.

Many people have left permanent digital footprints that even minimally tech-savvy individuals can find. Use Google to search for additional information on new individuals you meet and cross-check the information they've told you about themselves. Even if things appear to match up, don't assume they're telling you the truth. Scammers often go to great lengths to pose as another person or create a believable online presence that backs up their phony story.

4. PURSUE REAL RELATIONSHIPS.

Pursue relationships face-to-face. Avoid online dating if at all possible. Take your time in getting to know the other person.

LOOK OUT FOR/EASY CHECKS

- 1. He/she will only make contact via Whatsapp/email.
- 2. They will avoid video calls and even the cellphone.
- 3. The person would have various reasons why they are not able to call.
- 4. Most of the scammers will fabricate a lie or have a high profile job, in some international companies: oil rigs, UN doctors labouring in poor countries, even companies such as IBM, etc.
- 5. This is part of their manipulation as they would want to seem excessively rich doing good for those in need.
- 6. Although they pretend to be rich, they would always need money for some type of endeavour: passports; bribing militia to smuggle them out of some life-threatening situation.
- 7. They will go to extremes to convince their victims. They will create airplane tickets and bank statements, as they slowly reel their victims in to feel sorry for them and to pay money over to rescue them.

ACTUAL CASE EXAMPLE

POLICE STATEMENT

Fraud Identity theft and Corruption Fraud Scam of LARRY SCOTT and EJ JIYANE

I met a man Larry Scott on a dating site be2. I also found out later this site is corrupt and fraudulent when I googled it. Billed me a lot of money and took a lot more money from me then agreed upon.

This man told me his life story and made me promises about a beautiful life and he loves me. He made me fell in love with all his stories. He said he had to go for a project to Dubai and they stole his hand luggage. He put all his money into this project and needed money. That is when I started giving him money. I transferred the money to a man in Kwazulu Natal, to his CAPITEC account, named EJ JIYANE, claimed to be his friend that will transfer the money to him through Western Union. It went on and on with different stories of money he needed until he had a estimated amount of R145 000 of my money, saying he would pay it back when he comes to South Africa after his project to meet me and make me his wife. I went to fetch him on the airport on 27 November 2019. He never arrived.

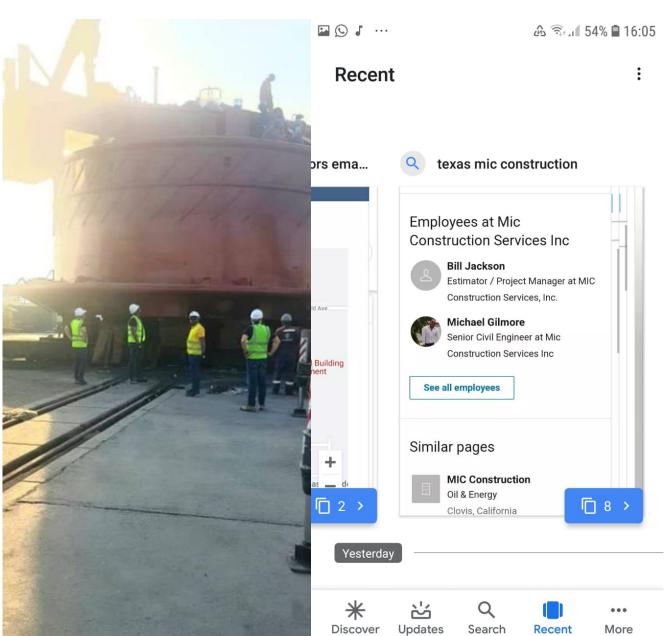
I was confused, did he missed his flight or get lost I don't know? He also claims to have a daughter called Jordan that is 10 years old and some of the money was also for her to travel and replace stolen hand luggage. I went to my bank FNB ZAMBESI. They told me it was a scam to get my money and they have dealt with similar cases before. They opened a case of scam and fraud against LARRY SCOTT and EJ JIYANE and froze his account immediately telling me if there is still money in his account they can get me some of my money back. Larry sends me pictures and contacted me and Whatsapp me every day. I am not sure if this is also identity theft and if the man phoning me claiming to be Larry Scott if he is the same man in the photos or did he stole someone's identity from Facebook. I am very confused, since I could not pick him up from the airport his phone is off and we had no more contact. It is all a mystery to me.

FNB FRAUD CASE NUMBER - 2019/1003308

CAPITEC CONTACT PERSON THAT OPENEND THE CASE - Rhullani / Tel: 087 575 9444.







If you have any information to assist with any of our investigations, kindly contact us immediately.

All information will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

You may forward this document to anyone interested/involved.

Previous project documents:

https://mailchi.mp/9454c0121a06/project-knocks-and-scams

https://mailchi.mp/2a1f655f2fb9/knocks-scams

https://mailchi.mp/b271d5db6bee/project-knocks-scams

https://mailchi.mp/67b2ada55854/project-knocks-scams

https://mailchi.mp/0400475b932e/project-knocks-scams

https://mailchi.mp/2f0cc19014df/project-knocks-scams

https://mailchi.mp/c19437d7a2b2/project-knocks-scams

Regards

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