

## Valentine's Day Scams

It's Valentine's Day and the scammers are out in full force... again. There are many ways these online criminals try to trick you, but the most common are phony florists, online dating scams, phony electronic greeting cards and delivery scams. So, here are the red flags you need to look out for.

**Do not trust** emails or advertising from online florists or other gift retailers until you are sure that they are valid. Otherwise, you might be turning over your credit card information to a scammer or infect your computer with malicious software.

**Do not trust** an online greeting card, particularly if it does not indicate who sent it to you. Be very wary of a card sent by "a secret admirer." Even if you recognize the name, confirm that it was really sent from that person before you click on the link and open the card.

**Do not trust** special deliveries, there is no special charge for alcohol so if someone requires a credit card payment for such a delivery, just politely decline knowing you just dodged a bullet.

**Do not trust** anyone who indicates he or she is in love with you and then wants to communicate with you right away on an email account outside of the dating site, claiming to be working abroad, asking for your address and poor grammar which is often a sign of a foreign romance scammer. Many romance scams originate in Eastern Europe... **The rule still applies: THINK before you click.**