

Online Dating

- **Online dating** allows people to find and introduce themselves to people over the internet. The goal of online dating is to create personal or romantic relationships.
- Online dating is an easy way to connect with possible romantic partners.
- Be careful with your personal information. Do not post any identifying information, such as home or work address or license plates. You can even sign up for a Google Voice phone number if you do not want to give out your cell phone number.
- Do not give anyone money. Report a person that asks for money.
- Google a potential date to make sure they are a real person. There are fake profile that are not run by real people. Fake profiles are called bots.
- Do not click on any links in a person's bio.
- Set up a video chat before an in-person date. This proves that the person is who they say they are.

Ways to Safely Meet in Person

- Pick a public place for a date.
- Make sure your cell phone battery has a full charge before meeting someone.
- Provide your own transportation to a date. If you do not drive, you can use public transportation or rideshare apps. Do not get into someone else's car.
- Inform your family and friends where you are going and when you will be back. You can even set up a time for a trusted family member or friend to call and check in with you.
- Do not do anything you are not comfortable with.
- If you do not feel safe, leave the date immediately (Petrecca, 2019).

References

To improve the quality of services and supports for people with disabilities

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Petrecca, L. (2019, March 22). *Dating Safety in Age of Technology*. AARP.
<https://www.aarp.org/home-family/dating/info-2019/online-dating-safety.html>