



Over 40 million Americans utilize online dating services or apps. As always whether meeting somebody online or in person, it is key to keep safety precautions in mind. It is up to you to watch out for yourself and ensure that you are safe.

In the case that something happens such as sexual assault or violence, remember that it is not your fault and that you should take the steps to report, block, and cut off communication with the individual.

Valpo PD is here to protect and serve YOU as a member of our community. We are committed to keeping our neighbors safe.

Need help? Call 911 in case of an active emergency, Call 800.656.HOPE (4673) to be connected with a trained staff member from a sexual assault service provider in your area, call 219-462-2135 or visit Valpo PD to make a report of sexual assault or misconduct.

Look for *THIS*

Avoid *THAT*

recognizing red and green flags while dating

Meeting in a public place

Meeting in a group

Inviting people you are comfortable with

Recognizing your values

Profile picture matches the name

Respects your time and boundaries

Whereabouts make sense

offers to video chat

NEW MATCHES



99+ likes



Valpo PD



Sherrifs Dpt.



Valparaiso, FL

MESSAGES



Valpo Parks

Hey! I have loved getting to know you, lets meet up some time. I heard there's an event at Central Park this weekend if you'd want to come with me and some friends.



Valpo Schools

I know education is really important. I know you said that you are going to VU in the fall. I'd love to meet for coffee to talk learn more about each other!



Indiana

I hope you enjoy your weekend in MI. It would be great to see you next week if you are free!



Valpo Fire

Ill be caught up at the station on duty tonight, but would like to video chat if you get some time. Just let me know!

Demanding to meet 1:1 or at a private residence

Insisting you go to an unfamiliar area

Being self centered

Becoming disinterested when you are not available

Making threats

Consistently rescheduling

Love or proposing before you have met

Repeatedly asking for money, personal information, or asking you to cancel plans

Online dating can be challenging and risky. Be sure to watch out for common red and green flags before you agree to meet up with unknown people. Always be sure to verify and trust your gut reactions to conversations. Be sure to let others know where you are going or plan for other people to be there with you.

DO share



You and others (with their consent)



Fun places you have traveled



A representation of your values

**DO NOT share/
watch out for**



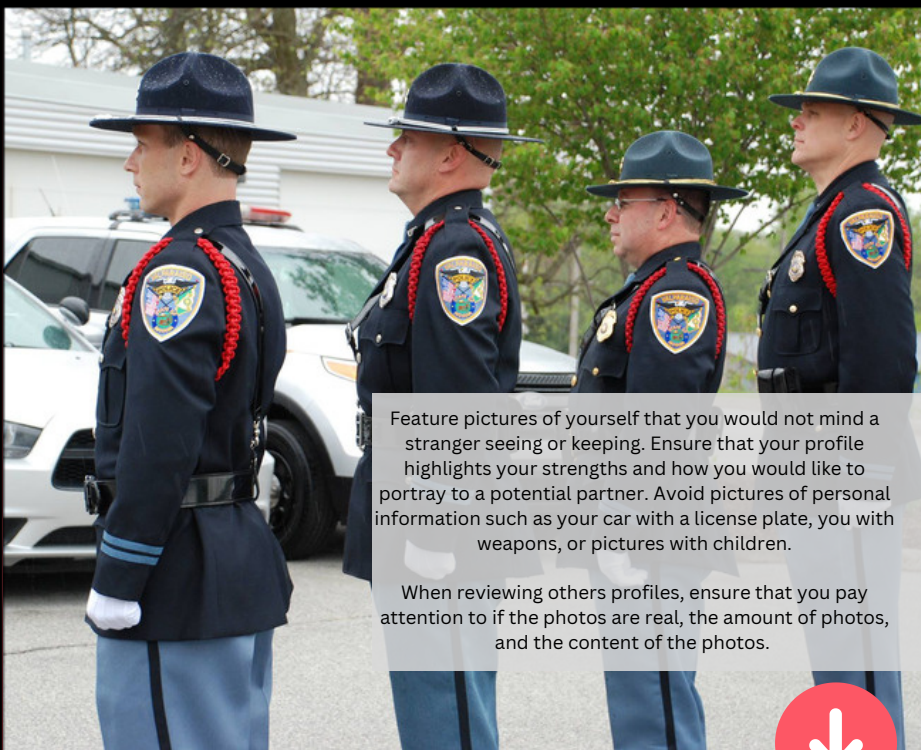
Blurry/Zoomed out pictures



Pictures that are not of you

Creating your *ideal profile*

Creating an appealing profile can be challenging. Take these precautions into consideration when preparing to post yourself.



Feature pictures of yourself that you would not mind a stranger seeing or keeping. Ensure that your profile highlights your strengths and how you would like to portray to a potential partner. Avoid pictures of personal information such as your car with a license plate, you with weapons, or pictures with children.

When reviewing others profiles, ensure that you pay attention to if the photos are real, the amount of photos, and the content of the photos.



John Doe, 25



Your job



Your school



Automatic location

About me

Some things to include and look for in others: what you are looking for, originality, what you like to do, your interests, and your passions. Watch out for profiles only seeking money, sex, or quick commitment.

When messaging somebody, you can reference their bio and show that you reviewed their profile. Mind what kind of information you provide and ensure that you can trust the person's identity before you meet up with them.