

A person wearing a pink dress is sitting on a bed with white sheets. A silver laptop is open in front of them. The background is a soft, out-of-focus view of the person's legs and the bed.

SINGLE PERSON'S HANDBOOK FOR ONLINE DATING

How To Check Someone Out For Free



SAFE IN HARM'S WAY
FOUNDATION, INC

The Single Person's Handbook for Online Dating: How to Check Someone Out For Free



Are you thinking about dating? Are you contemplating putting yourself out there after a bad breakup or an abusive relationship?

The "Single Person's Handbook for Online Dating: How to Check Someone Out For Free" is a step-by-step guide to getting back into the dating scene safely while also protecting yourself.

This is a lot of information, so go slow. One thing at a time. One day at a time. You're worth the investment.

Also remember that if you can look up this information, someone can look you up too. Act accordingly. Be safe.

Be sure to do THESE FOUR THINGS FIRST:

1. Use the interactive map from Safe In Harm's Way that allows you to instantly click on every state and see if the person you want to date has a criminal record of any time. 
2. The second thing you need to do is go to JoinDeleteMe.com. Safe In Harm's Way has an exclusive relationship with JoinDeleteMe.com. Be sure to use their **SAFE 20** discount code at checkout, and for less than \$100 per year, your data and personal information will be removed from all searches like the ones we will discuss in the following pages.
3. If you are a survivor of abuse, then work with your local shelter to get an address removal via the Safe At Home Project in your state. At Safe In Harm's Way, we love the state of Missouri's website because they publish every state who has an address removal system with easy links to get your information removed from any voting website or any government public search engine. 
4. Practice on yourself first. Complete the below nine steps that follow, and find out what is out there about you. It is vital to remove yourself from public internet searches, just like what you will walk through in the following pages.

NOW, let's get started on the Nine Step Check you can use to ensure someone you'd like to date is really who they say they are, and a good human, too.

My name is Patrick. I created the handbook for myself after having horrible dating experiences. People weren't who they said they were and it made me anxious.

Later, I met the Founder and CEO of Safe In Harm's Way, Caroline Markel, and fell in love with her organization's mission. This booklet helped protect me and we hope it can do the same for you.

I added some "nevers, refrains, and always" at the end. This is to verify that what they are telling you is valid and consistent. If it doesn't jive with what they tell you versus what you find online with these hints, then it is a red flag.

The user of this handbook should make sure that the person's story is consistent with what is out on the web. It doesn't mean that the person is lying - the data could be bad. That is when you have to dig further.

This really only works in the US. Some of the websites quoted are not available outside the US. For example, fastpeoplesearch.com does not work to search for a US address when the searcher is in Europe.

Remember, giving your phone number is as good as giving someone your name and address, so treat it like your social security number!

BIG IDEA THAT YOU SHOULD ALWAYS TRY TO DO: Remain anonymous on the phone front. Get a phone number from Google Voice. It's free, and the Google phone number will ring through to your own cell so you never have to give out your original cell phone number again. (<https://Voice.Google.com>)

Handbook rules:

Step 1.

If you have a phone number OR first and last name:

<https://www.fastpeoplesearch.com>

Look at the addresses, look at the previous last names. For women this can be an indication of how many times they've been married.

The addresses tell how many places they have lived. Does this match what they told you?

Look at the possible relatives. This is not always relatives, but people who have lived in the same address around the same time.

This website gives possible email and phone numbers. Many are old or outdated, but if there are none it is a red flag!

The information isn't always right. For example, one search I did showed a woman probably married to her mother, so not everything is 100% true.

Step 2.

If you have first name and work title or work company or university name or first and last name:

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed>

Search for the name and the company, or just the name and title, or name and university

Limit the search to people

Limit the search to the geographic area (i.e. Greater Detroit, which includes Ann Arbor)

Scroll down until you find a pic, or a description that matches

Look for common connections

If you only had a first name and title/university/company, now go to Step 1 listed above.

Step 3.

If you find them on LinkedIn, add an extension in the Chrome browser called Rocket Reach. First, if you don't have the Chrome browser, you need to install it. [Discover Chrome Here!](#)

Second, you need to install the [Rocket Reach extension](#).

Then go to someone's LinkedIn page and click on the rocket that was added to your browser. It will show you all their email addresses and other information.

Step 4.

Once you have a name, google them then google the phone number, then google their email address.

Depending on how common the name is, you might want to put in the company name, or put in the city.

Google the phone number. Usually this just gets ads for companies for you to spend money, however, if they are on a home association board, are active with their kid's sports, etc. it pops up.

Step 5.

Go to Facebook. Type in their name, or try typing in their phone number. Many people let anyone look at their profile, believe it or not.

Note: Pictures with ex's that haven't been taken down are a red flag
Look at pictures with friends. Do they look like the online pictures posted or are those online pictures 10 years old? Are current pictures 50 pounds heavier?

Also look on alumni websites of whatever college they claimed to have attended. Often they are too open with information.

Step 6.

Go to the county court website where they live. You can Google Search any county, but here is an example for Oakland County, California:

<https://courtexplorer.oakgov.com/OaklandCounty>

Type in their name. This shows all suits in the county, including the dates of their divorce (only if it occurred in the county). Be careful of common names.

Look at the possible relatives and middle names from Step 1. to ensure you are looking at the right person.

Step 7.

Go to MyLife.com. Often a lot of the stuff on here is wrong, but they get the birthdates right. Click on the Bio page and read a synopsis. This site tries to get you to buy info on criminal or bankruptcy court activities, but if you are really that worried, it's probably the wrong person to date.

Step 8.

If you are still really questioning someone's age, or they say that Step 1 is wrong (i.e. you think they are lying about their age). Here is an example for Michigan, but you can google any state, as other states have similar websites.

Michigan's example, you can go to

<https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/> and see if they are registered to vote.

- You can try different years if needed.
- You do need to know their birth month, but you can get that from Step 1.
- Or if you have their zodiac sign from some dating apps/websites use that information to search the corresponding months
- Or you've had a talk about their birthdate

Step 9.

Type their address in from Step 1 in Google Maps.

Go to street view. You can see if the house matches their profile. Often you can see the car in the driveway, but it doesn't always mean it's theirs.

If street view isn't available, go to Google Earth. It's amazing how detailed a satellite view can be. You get an idea of the house.

List of Never, Refrain, and Always:

NEVER take a picture of you in front of your house with the number displayed. There really aren't that many 53282 addresses in your city. A simple google map search will show all the alternatives, and someone can find YOU easily.

NEVER post a pic with your name tag on it. I had one that was too small to read, but one creative individual told me later that they had blown the picture up and could read my name.

NEVER put your company or job title on a dating app. It's too easy to use LinkedIn or other websites.

NEVER post a picture of you in a company t-shirt, near a sign, or anything else with your company name on.

REFRAIN from using your name on dating apps, especially if it's a unique spelling. For example, there aren't that many people who spell it "Brandie" in Grand Rapids.

ALWAYS: If you are going to use a handle on dating apps, make it something that describes you, but never be too sexy or imply something sexual. Stick to "Happy" or "Looking for LTR"

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For additional resources, visit us online:

WEB: <https://SafeInHarmsWay.org>

SOCIAL: @SafeInHarmsWay

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