



ARE YOU EXCITED ABOUT YOUR NEW LOVE RELATIONSHIP? – LEARN THESE NEW SAFETY TIPS FOR DATING!

Dating is a huge part of a person's life at one time or another. Whether you met the perfect companion in your tender teen years or have been content to casually date through the majority of your adult life, the excitement of love affects us all in our lifetime. Even with the heady infatuation of finding Mr. or Mrs. Right, it's important to remember safety. You never know if your prince or princess is really a toad in disguise.



A lot of people tend to meet each other at bars, concerts and other fun events. You hang out for a bit, talk about things and hit it off. A feeling of intimacy can develop very quickly. This guy is really nice; he'd never hurt me. I really like this girl; she's so sweet and considerate. You may be right and you may be wrong. Use common sense and check the puppy love feelings when you leave. The temptation to follow up a fun night out in public with a more intimate visit at home may work in the movies. In real life, it's never a good idea to immediately invite someone over to your home or go to theirs. Exchange email addresses or make plans to meet at the same location later in the week. If it's meant to be, you'll see each other again - in a safe setting.

When it comes time to say goodbye to the cutie you met at the bar after work, say your goodbyes inside the establishment. They may offer to walk you to your car or ask to be escorted out but it's probably not a good idea especially if it's after dark. If you're a guy and your new flame says she's nervous to walk to her parking spot, talk to a bouncer, bartender or restaurant host to inquire about security escorts. If you're a gal and the hottie who bought you a drink wants to bring you to your car, thank him for his generosity and then ask if he'd walk you to the door - you'll talk to security about getting an escort to the parking lot or just hail a cab.

Going out to meet people or see and be seen can involve a lot of flexibility in your planning. This club is full and that bar has a private event where the place down the street has 2 for 1 specials. Go with the flow to have as much fun as you can but keep a friend or family member who's not a part of your group keyed into your movements. A quick text message saying, "We're headed down the street" is all it takes to get help to you quickly if you need it.

If you decide to meet up with your new love again, decide on another public place. Have a daytime date where there are a lot of people. Inform friends and family who you're meeting, where you're meeting, and when you'll be done. Don't feel bad about calling off the date if something doesn't feel right or you're uncomfortable. If you have the full name of your interest, look them up on Google. It may sound "creepy" but the results you can find by digging on the internet can save you a lot of heartache and help keep you safe.



The unthinkable happens and you find yourself really interested in this person you didn't know even a week ago. Where do you go from here? While playing 20 Questions may not be the most romantic thing to do with a new relationship, if you're even considering getting serious about someone after a few dates, start asking questions. Someone who is being honest and upfront will usually share freely about work, their families and friends when they know that you're genuinely wanting to get to know them better. If you're still seeing one another after a month or two, ask if you can meet these people they fondly talk about. If they resist, it may be a signal that they're not being completely honest with you about their situation in life (unemployed, married.)



While thinking about your safety may seem like a romantic turn-off, it's really doing yourself and your future soulmate a favor. Being mindful and alert at the beginning of a relationship helps red flags and issues rise to the top quickly and helps avoid nasty breakups or worse later on down the road. When you do find that special person, they'll appreciate your presence of mind about safety.

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