

# “Don’t Break My Heart!”: User Security Strategies for Online Dating



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Free Online Dating

USEC 2017



3/11/17

## Crazy people

Liars

Rich man uses Plenty of Fish dating website to meet and rape women

Trolls

Rapists

By: Wayne Morin  
A rich man was arrested on a charge of rape after using the Plenty of Fish dating website to

**Deputies: Man lured by teen girl he met on Plenty of Fish website; ambushed, shot**

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id.

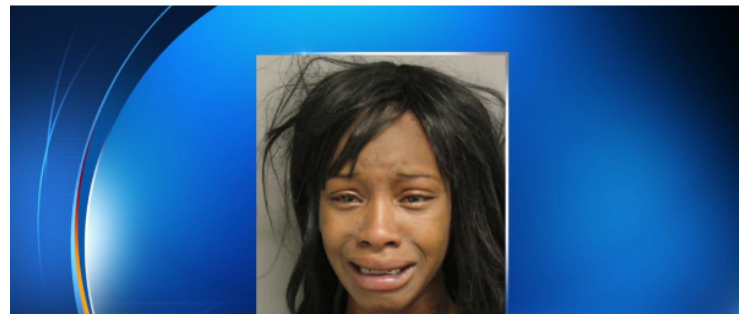
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By Nakia Cooper - Senior Web Editor, Mark Boyle - Reporter  
Posted: 8:11 AM, July 07, 2015  
Updated: 8:11 AM, July 07, 2015

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Misrepresentation

Creeps



Cads

# **COMMON WITH OTHER ONLINE PLATFORMS**

Fear of Misrepresentation

Trust

Reputation



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# QUESTIONS WE SOUGHT TO ANSWER

- Understand the security and privacy precautions taken by users in online dating sites
- Understand how users balance the need for sharing information with the need to protect themselves
- Explore situations where users discover others were untruthful in their representations and how this might endanger them
- Explore how users gauge the accuracy of information revealed by others on dating sites



# METHODOLOGY

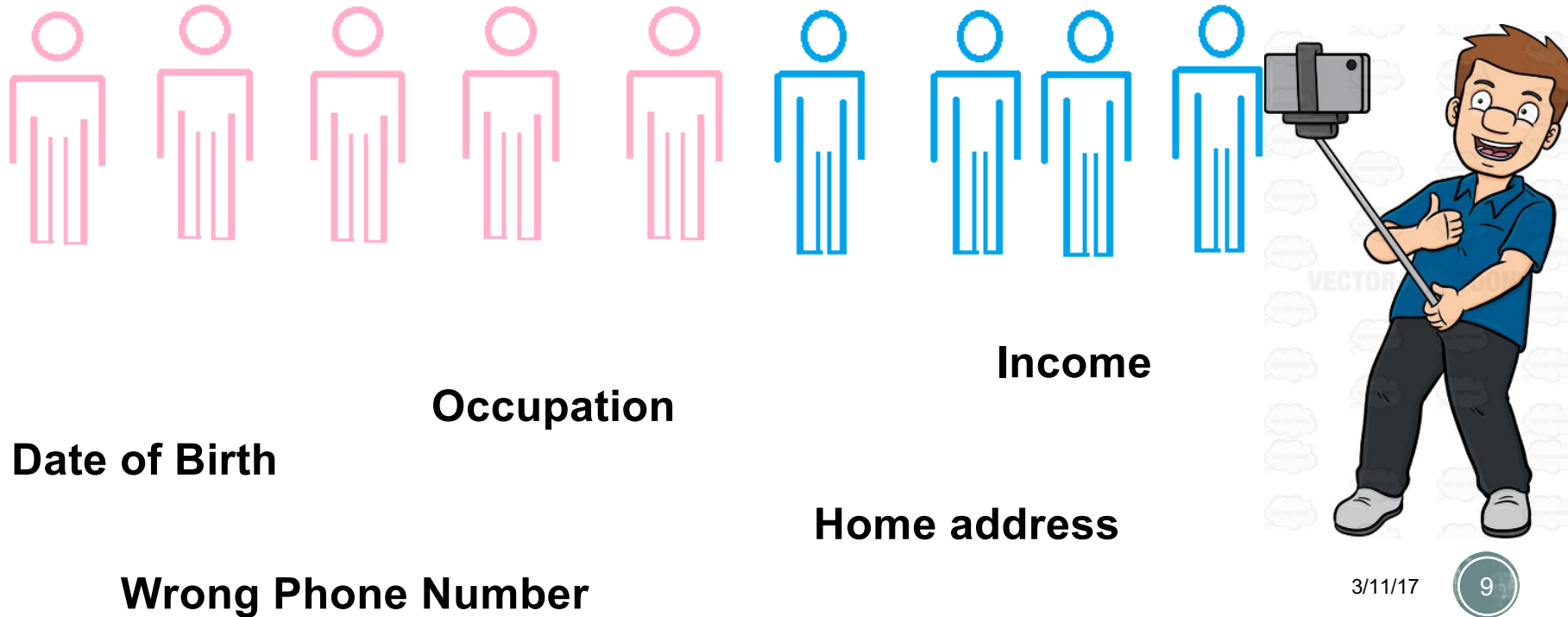
ID	Gender	Age	Occupation
P1	Female	22	Masters Student
P2	Female	18	Undergraduate Student
P3	Male	21	Undergraduate Student
P4	Male	19	Undergraduate Student
P5	Female	24	Research Assistant
P6	Female	20	Undergraduate Student
P7	Female	49	Administrator/Advisor
P8	Male	20	Undergraduate Student
P9	Male	23	Trainer
P10	Female	50	Staff





# SECURITY AND PRIVACY PRECAUTIONS

Providing limited or incorrect information

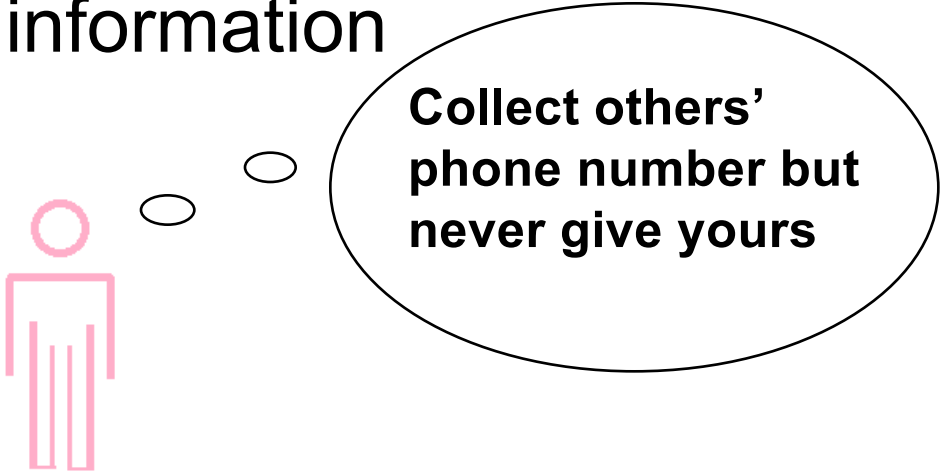


# SECURITY AND PRIVACY PRECAUTIONS

## Sharing further information



**Never exchange  
phone numbers!**



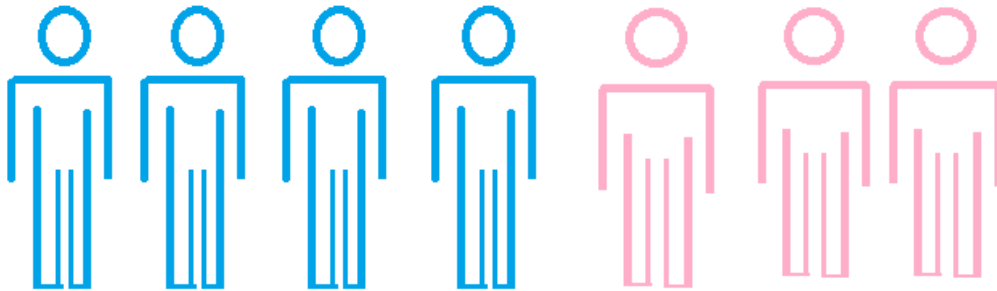
**Collect others'  
phone number but  
never give yours**



**Delay phone number  
exchange for a week**

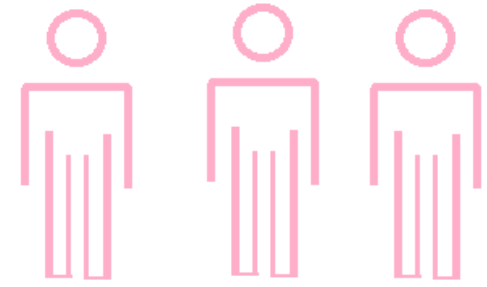
# SECURITY AND PRIVACY PRECAUTIONS

## Setting up dates



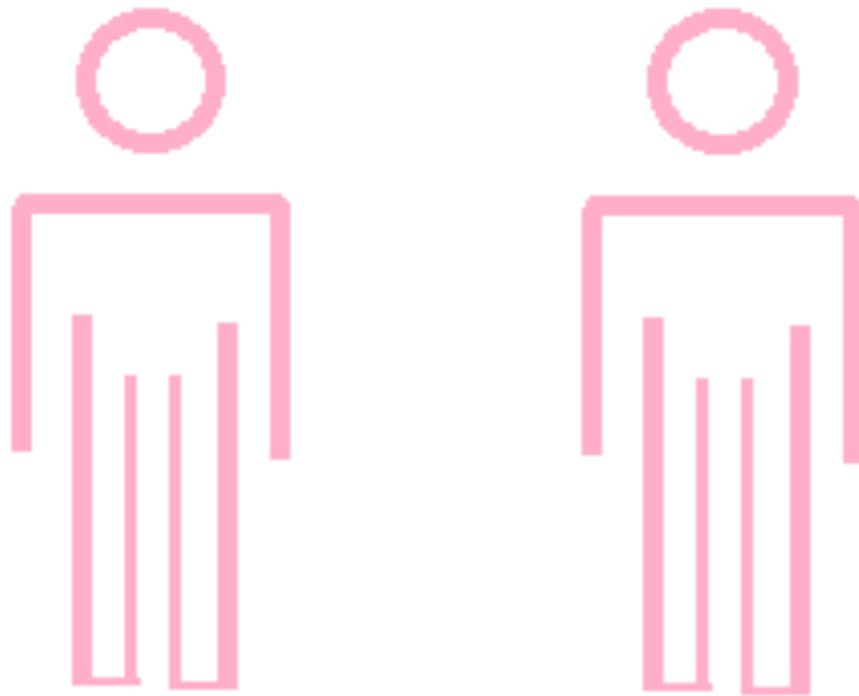
2 Months

3 Week



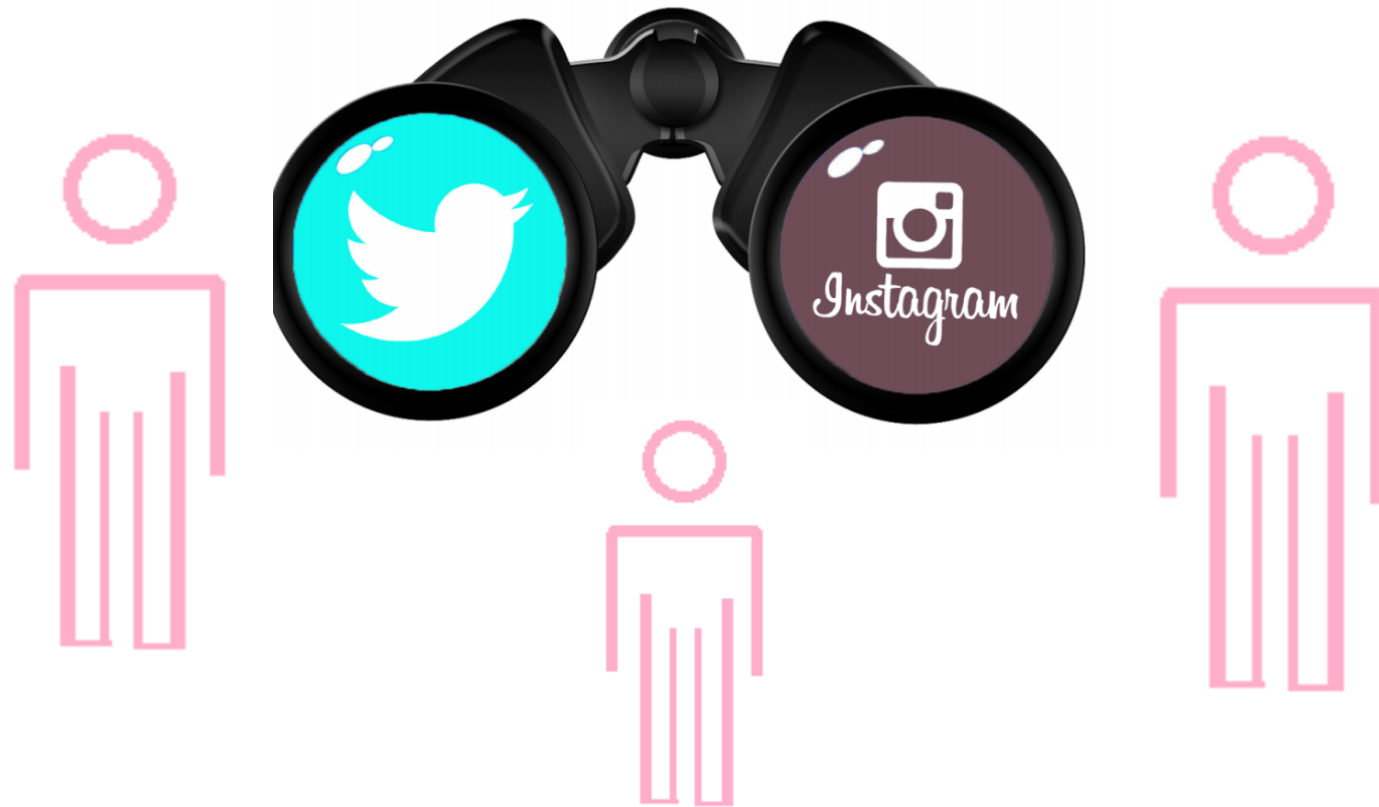
# SECURITY AND PRIVACY PRECAUTIONS

Recognising weird request as red flags



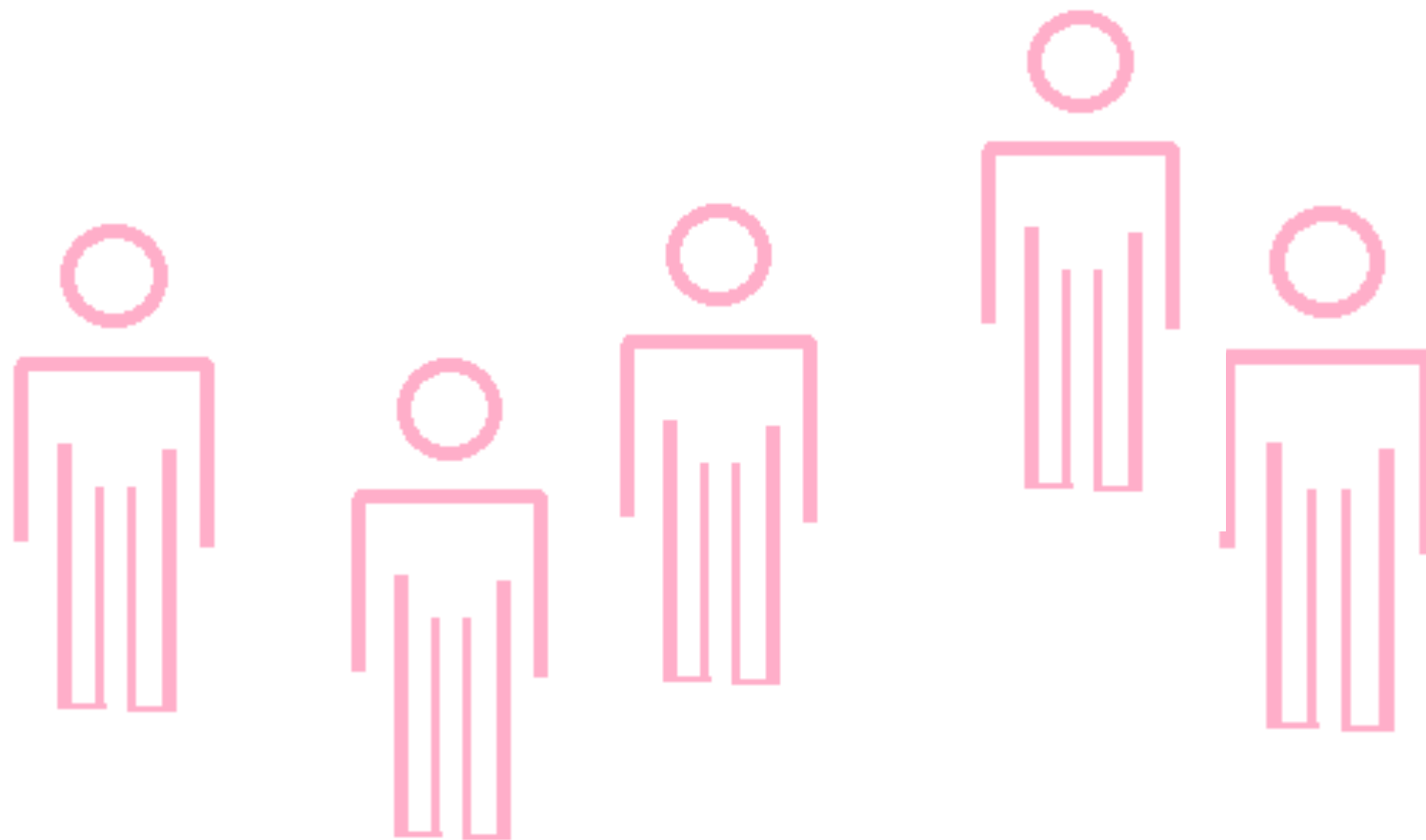
# SECURITY AND PRIVACY PRECAUTIONS

## Stalking on social media

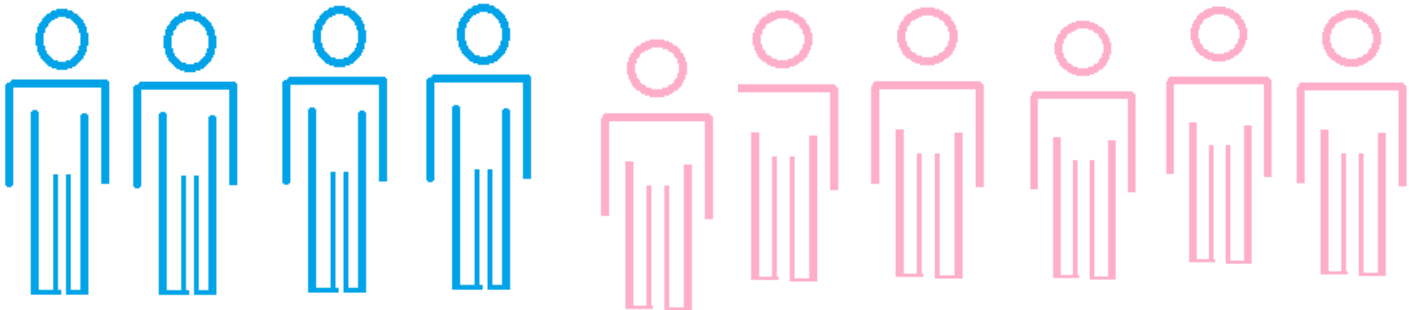


# SECURITY AND PRIVACY PRECAUTIONS

Being cautious while on dates



# BALANCING PRIVACY AND SOCIABILITY





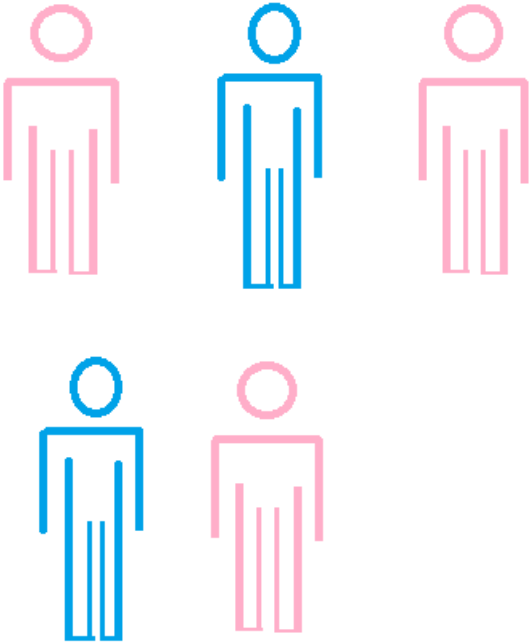
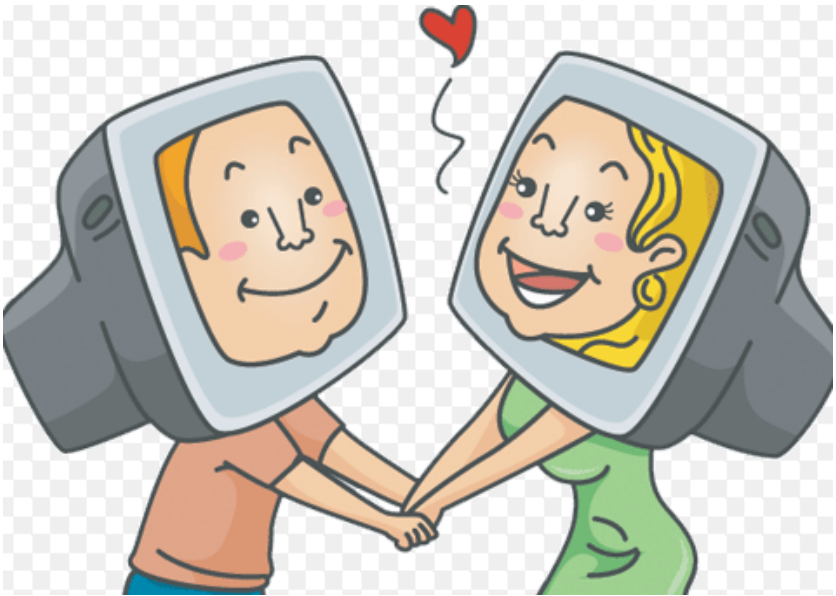
# DETECTING SCAMMERS AND GAUGING TRUTHFULNESS

Trusting gut feeling



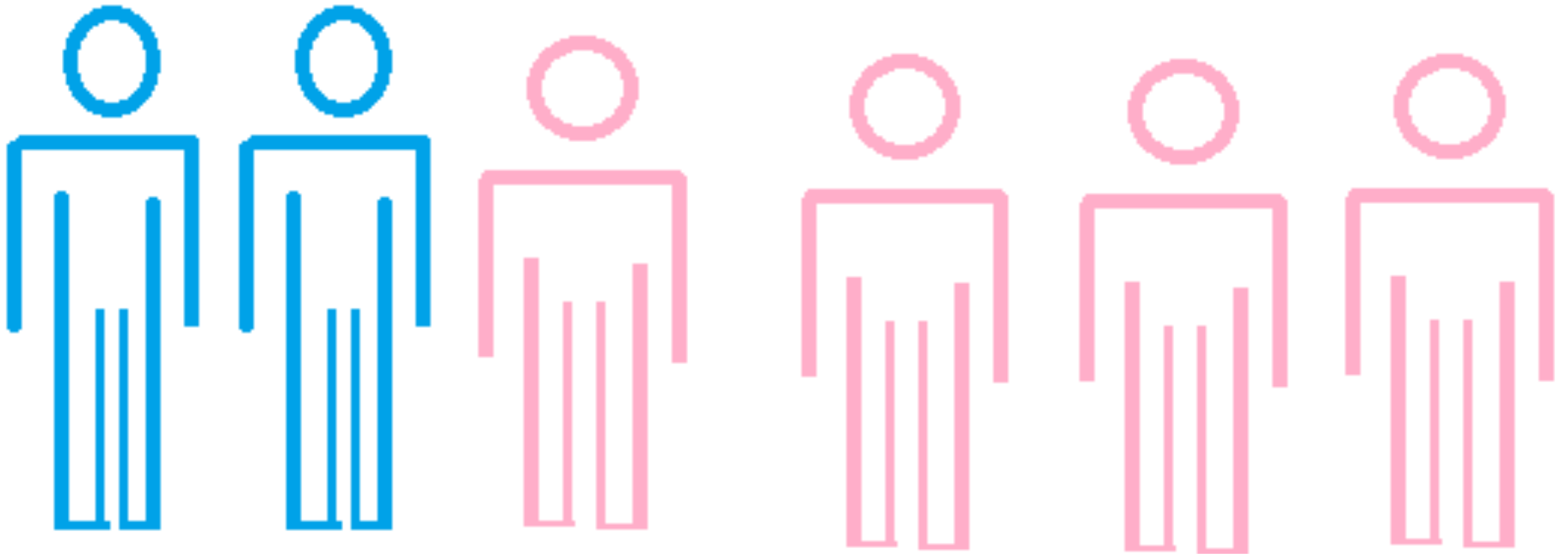
# DETECTING SCAMMERS AND GAUGING TRUTHFULNESS

## Conversation patterns



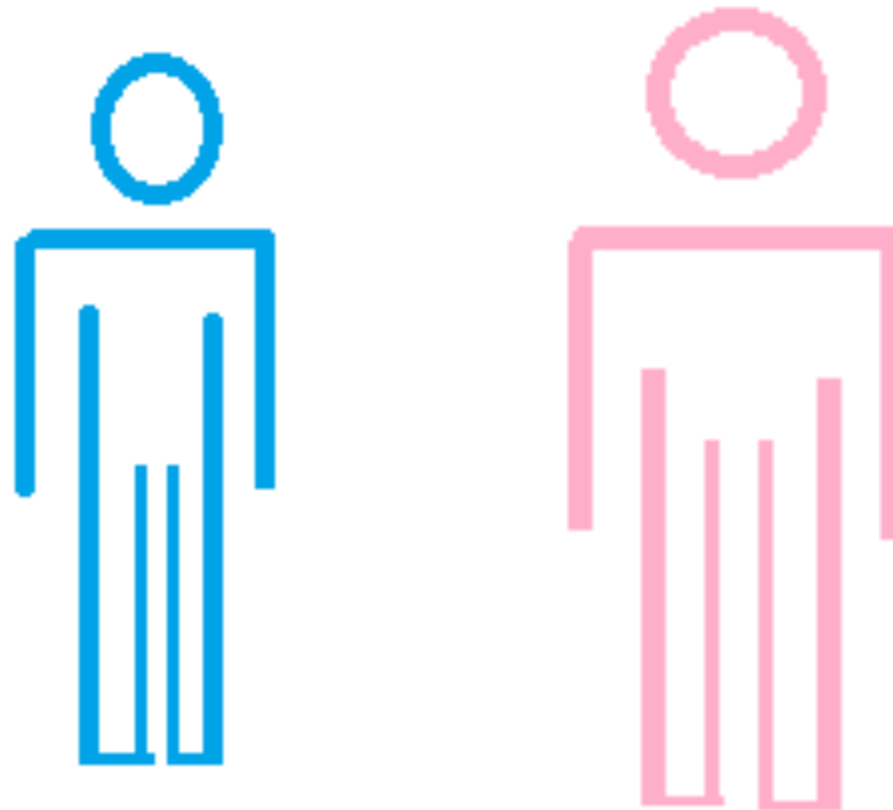
# DETECTING SCAMMERS AND GAUGING TRUTHFULNESS

## Inconsistencies in profiles



# DETECTING SCAMMERS AND GAUGING TRUTHFULNESS

Requesting proof

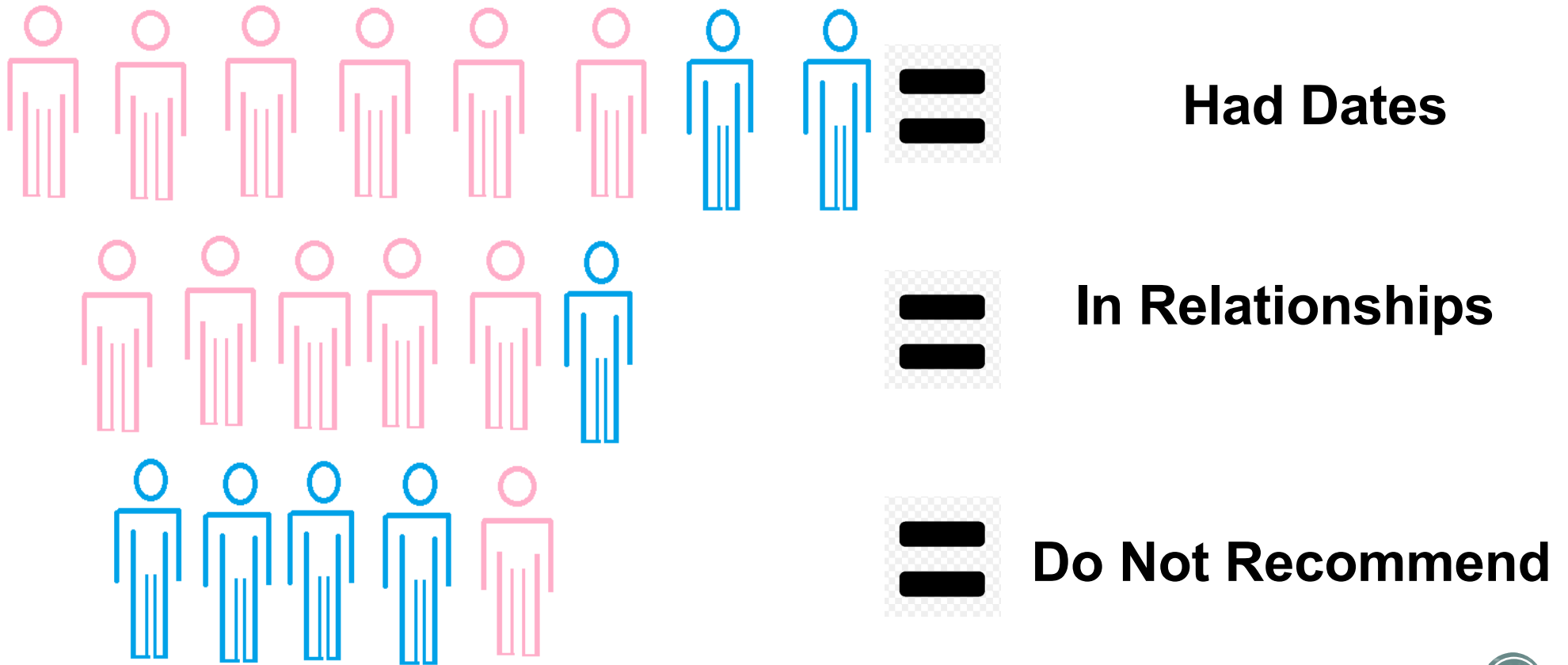


# DETECTING SCAMMERS AND GAUGING TRUTHFULNESS

You can never tell



# GENERAL DATING EXPERIENCE AND FEEDBACK



**Had Dates**

**In Relationships**

**Do Not Recommend**

# AN IDEAL DATING SITE

- Better practical approaches to help dating site user gauge the accuracy of information shared
- Help in sharing information such that they protect their privacy and safety while also not stopping them from finding potential matches
- These mechanisms can be applied on a global scale



*Thank you for listening,  
Any Questions..?*

**[borkeobadaobieh@gmail.com](mailto:borkeobadaobieh@gmail.com)**