

Dating Red Flags: Signs That Spell Trouble for a Relationship's Future

We've all been there. We've seen and heard the red flags that clearly scream “trouble on the horizon!” Yet, we rationalize them away and pretend we don't see them until our fantasy falls apart. Spare yourself the time and heartache by taking dating red flags seriously. Trust what you experience. Your instincts will usually back you up. Here are a few signs of relationship trouble to come:

- **Red Flag #1:** Person talks about their ex-spouse or girlfriend/boyfriend. This person has not emotionally ended their attachment. This leaves little room for a thriving new romance.
- **Red Flag #2:** Person qualifies their availability to you. You know, the person who is only available for dates every second Friday of the month or every other Thursday. This could mean they are seeing other people and not telling you or it could mean they hate being lonely and fill up a meaningless social schedule. In any case, what it does not say is: “I'm looking forward to spending time with you.” You deserve more, so don't put up with this.
- **Red Flag #3:** You aren't given complete contact information. After three or four dates, you should be able to reach the person by phone, email, and home address. If contact information is being withheld (you have only one way to contact the person), this may be a sign the person is married (few people actually have to withhold contact info for security reasons). Ask for complete information, and if they don't provide it RUN to the nearest relationship exit!
- **Red Flag #4:** He/she asks you inappropriate questions like: “So just how married is your best friend Sam?” Or “So do you have lots of single friends.” This person's attention is way off target. Get thee a new attentive date!
- **Red Flag #5:** The person acts strangely. A friend accidentally dialed a wrong number, apologized and hung up. The guy actually called her back saying that she seemed so nice and he liked the sound of her voice. They live in different states! And, she is married! Neither of which seemed to dampen his enthusiasm. This is desperate. If a person sees every point of contact – even accidental – as dating potential they probably don't get out much or they only feel comfortable meeting people via technology (computer, phone, etc.). Do not follow up this kind of odd contact.

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