

# Psychic Scams



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### About Psychic Revolution

Psychic Revolution has been created to educate and inform people about paranormal phenomena. The Psychic Revolution website is a natural extension of the academic research into paranormal experiences which was carried out by the founder, Rosemary Breen at Monash University in Australia.

The topic of Rosemary's higher degree thesis was: "The Nature, Incidence, Impact, and Integration of Spontaneous Parapsychological Experiences" and the results of the internet survey on which that study are based are cited in Wikipedia.

Over 4,000 surveys, from the residents of 59 countries were submitted in the original, online paranormal survey. Now, due to popular demand, the survey is once again 'live' on the internet. The aim of this research project is to create the largest database of paranormal experiences ever collected anywhere in the world.

### About Rosemary Breen



Psychic Revolution is the creation of Rosemary Breen. Rosemary has been comfortable living with the paranormal all her life and because of her background in the business, where she worked in finance, marketing and research for many years her approach to the psychic realms is pragmatic.

Rosemary lives in Australia (Melbourne, Victoria) with her husband and two children. In 2009, Rosemary completed her Master of Education at Monash University in Australia.



### Introduction

As you start to read this ebook, it's important to realize that there are now more psychics practicing around the world than ever before. In fact, the industry is booming and while many in the industry are certainly helping people, there are also a number of scam artists who are masquerading as genuine psychics.

This is something I strongly appose and it is the main reason for creating this ebook. As the industry grows in popularity, more and more people are discovering the emotional freedom, insight, and peace of mind that can derive from time spent with a psychic.

Perhaps you are someone who has been successfully using psychics for years, or maybe you are just thinking about using these services for the first time (either online or in person). Either way, it is very important that you understand and be aware of the difference between genuine psychics and fakes.

I want to let as many people as possible know about the tell-tale signs of a fake. In doing so, I hope to help others so that no one waste their valuable time or money on such fraudsters. Besides the time and money concerns, there is also the emotional element to any reading and this is a very important aspect of any consultation and one that many people overlook.

Being given a psychic reading by a fraud can cause a lot of enduring emotional damage, and this is something that needs to be prevented, wherever possible. On top of all this, there is also the issue that fraudulent consultations give the industry at large a negative reputation.

The Internet is frequently used by psychics to deliver their message and, unfortunately, this is a popular medium (pardon the pun) that has attracted many scam artists.

Oftentimes, they are able to hide behind their screen names and reputations and lure honest people into handing over too much – of their money, their time, and even their Independence. It is very important for the future of the industry – and this includes psychics, clairvoyants, tarot card readers etc - that the fraudulent practitioners and charlatans be publicly identified and even stopped from working.

Today, while there is a bewildering array of specialties and psychic tools on offer, at the heart of every consultation is the matter of whether the client is consulting with a genuine psychic or not. I have created this ebook to help you make that decision for yourself. In fact, inside this ebook there may be enough pointers for you to be able to easily spot – and avoid - the frauds. It is essential that you try and identify suspicious language and behavior as early as possible - even before you commit to an appointment.



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Visiting with a psychic or clairvoyant, whether in person or via technology, can be a very stressful, emotional experience. Many people become mesmerised by these paranormal workers and their usual sense of judgment and their rational way of thinking and reasoning quickly goes out the window. Dealing with psychics is no different to dealing any other service provider. Stay calm; remain rational; and don't be overwhelmed by the sense of the occasion.

Easier said than done – that's why this handy guide exists – to remind you how to deal with those who purport to deal with the psychic realms.

Finally, in the last part of this ebook, you will learn about the reputable registering bodies within the industry. This is important information. Please use it to learn more about the issues of ethical standards and codes of practices that exist within the wider industry. This is another very effective means of safeguarding yourself.

Now that you have an overview of what to expect, let's get started.



### What to do before booking

To reduce the likelihood of booking a fraudster, there are a number of simple steps that you can take before you even make a booking. Some of these are observations. Others are lines of questioning.

#### **Is the psychic someone who was referred to you by a friend or acquaintance?**

This is the first question that you need to answer. It is very important to have a sound basis for making your choice of psychic. If you were not personally referred from a trusted source, then perhaps you need to reconsider your decision.

As a rule, the best form of a referral is from a long standing friend, who knows you and has your best interests in mind.

Scams present themselves in many ways and forms. They can come through the post, via a telephone call, in an email or even face to face. There are many scammers who understand all too well how to use psychological tricks to their advantage. As such, it is quite common for some of them to approach you (rather than the other way around) and tell you that they are psychic and you are in trouble. Of course, they offer you a solution – for a fee or a special price. Do not be fooled by this type of approach. It is bogus.

There are many types of solutions and remedies that psychic fraudsters will offer you and you need to be on the lookout for these. Don't let the excitement of the promise and the moment carry you away. There are many charlatans who will offer you different types of quick fix cures for your problems including lucky charms, the removal of curses, and even the winning numbers in the next lottery (more on this later in the ebook).

There are many other ways of luring you towards a fraudulent psychic. These include offering you a wealth package, or a set of "secrets" or "insights" that can only be revealed to you in person. All of these schemes are designed to play on your inquisitive mind and ultimately, they may lead you to part with your money.

Remember, all the schemes mentioned so far come about because someone, or something (mail, email etc) seek you out. Beware, because you are targeted by them. When you are approached, be very skeptical, unless you can know and trust the person involved.

Is a psychic reading really the best thing for you?

This is another important question that you need to ask yourself. Traditionally, fraudsters and scammers play on those they see as vulnerable or weak. If you are not emotionally



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strong before you consult a psychic perhaps you need to consider whether they are the best person to help you at this time. Think twice.

Do you need the help of a psychic or a health professional? It may be much better for your mental and physical health to see a qualified GP, a psychologist or even a grief counselor – depending on what your needs are.

Many people seek out psychics after the death of a close family member or friend. This is probably one of the most emotionally painful times in life, and it often leaves people feeling lost and psychologically spent.

While it can be comforting to hear the reassuring words of a psychic, this may not be the most appropriate help given your circumstances. Again, think twice. Is consulting a psychic, right now, in your best interests?

Consider how you are placed, emotionally, physically and spiritually in your life. You can always consult a psychic later and, by waiting you may even be better placed to receive the information further down the road. You will also be more likely to choose a genuine psychic, as your thoughts and feelings will be more in check and you will not be acting or reacting on raw emotion.

### **Are you being unnecessarily influenced by the stream of unvetted, potentially false online reviews?**

Unfortunately, there are many fake reviews posted online. These seem real, appear to be written freely by independent people from around the world but oftentimes, they are fake. This practice does not only apply to the psychic world. It is rife in many areas of life.

Thus, you need to proceed with caution and remember that the reviews you read are probably not authentic. It is very difficult to easily establish whether they are bona fide or not. So, it is best either to not take them too seriously, personally contact the psychic or the website where the feedback has been left; or locate the website's policy regarding online reviews.

Chances are that you will not find traceable referees but if you do then you can feel more confident about the genuineness of the psychic.

Another way to verify the reviews and the psychics is to do an internet search on the names. Of course, some psychics trade under different names on different sites. Some even have their own websites, where they reveal their own identity, as well as consulting through one or more of the large online psychic service providers. If you type the name of the psychic into a search engine followed by the word “scam” you may be surprised at what you find. Again, exercise caution because everything written on the internet is not necessarily true.



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### First impressions

As with most things in life, you should bear in mind that first impressions (face-to-face or otherwise) are very important and this holds true when dealing with psychics also. We make first impressions about everyone in life automatically, and we learn to trust our intuition. This is an important life skill and one that should be used when assessing a psychic.

Make a point of noting your first impression of the psychic. Remind yourself of it, before you commit to a session (and indeed, even after a consultation). In this way, you are less likely to make a snap decision which could turn out to be harmful for you. This awareness will also help you to remember to ask more probing questions that could in turn, signal whether you are dealing with a fraud or not.

This is particularly important for people new to psychic readings, as the language may be new to you and can be deliberately vague, even misleading. Before making a booking, you need to be aware of what you are buying. What is the service that is on offer? What can you reasonably expect in return for your time and your money? If you are unsure, ask questions before committing to the booking. If the psychic, or the online psychic service provider appears unwilling to discuss your concerns before you commit to a consultation then consider what this is telling you. Of course, everyone is entitled to make an honest living and clients need to be mindful of this too.

If you meet the psychic in person, or talk with them online using a camera then your first impression of them will be broader than if you just spoke to them. The overall appearance of the psychic and their mannerisms may add to your intuition about whether they are a fraud or genuine.

The body language and tone of voice is another indicator. An authentic psychic tends to be relaxed, calm, at ease with what they do and keen to put their clients at ease. On the other hand, a fraudster is likely to want you to commit to an appointment right away and will use fear tactics such as suggesting you are cursed and need immediate help. Such approaches intuitively feel unwelcoming and they probably are.





### Questions to ask the psychic before booking

It is important that you at least make some kind of contact with the psychic before making a booking. If you not able to ask any questions then you should not proceed. In everyday life it is rare to commit to a service without speaking to the provider first and the same should hold true when engaging the services of a psychic. More than likely, a genuine psychic will want to put your mind at ease and should be happy to answer any questions you have.

Here are a number of simple questions that you may not have thought to ask. You may wish to add these to your own list.

#### **Price**

The price is probably the first question to ask. Does the psychic charge by the minute, quarter hour, half hour or hour? Or, if a flat fee is charged and the session runs overtime is an additional charge incurred? It is best not to have any more surprises than you need where psychics are concerned.

There are many recorded cases of scam victims paying large up front fees (for phone or internet consultations) and then failing to receive their consultation. The sham psychic 'disappears', taking the funds with them. There are follow up phone calls that are never returned. Messages are left answered.

It is so important to know who you are dealing with. Never hand over money until you know who is behind the service. Never pay a large upfront fee in advance of your session. Only pay for your psychic consultation at the time of the actual reading.

#### **Money back guarantee**

If the psychic does not offer a money back guarantee then you should avoid them. A 'no questions asked, 100% money back guarantee is even better. Legitimate psychics are happy to offer a money back guarantee as they are confident of their skills and the services they offer. The fraudsters will rarely offer such a guarantee. Put simply, they are out to take your money.

Don't be afraid to ask upfront about their terms of service.

#### **Does the consultation offer a free recording?**

These days, you will find that most genuine psychics offer free recordings of their consultations as part of the service. These recording may be provided on a tape, video or



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as an internet download. Having a recording is an excellent way of reviewing your session with the psychic and if your psychic does not provide this and is reluctant for you to carry out your own recording, then consider what this may be telling you. Sessions with psychics can be very emotive and having a recording means not only that you can relax and enjoy the time spent together. It also means you have a record of what was said by you and by them.

### **Does the consultant have a written privacy policy that protects against identity fraud etc? Is it downloadable?**

If the psychic consultant does not have a privacy policy that can be readily located online or which they send to you then be very wary. Privacy policies are now commonplace on all websites, psychic service providers included and it is very reasonable to assume that what transpires in a private session with a psychic stays in that setting.

Privacy policies not only put clients' minds at ease they protect the psychic and the customer. As a matter of good practice, you should consider getting into the habit of seeking out the privacy policy of all websites where you intend to do business with and reading them before money changes hands.



### **What to listen for during the consultation or later while listening to your recording**

The next step that you need to take to help identify frauds is to look out for certain words, phrases and other persuasive techniques that are used by scammers.

#### **Was the psychic doing a cold reading?**

Cold reading is a technique that can be learnt by anyone. It is the name given to the practice of making generalized statements that seem appropriate and meaningful, yet have little or no relevance other than that which the receiver attaches to them.

An example would be something like, “at times you are extroverted and outgoing, but at other times you are very reserved and think about things deeply”.

Essentially, this statement adds nothing. It is just a set of words which is broad enough for the client to either attach their own meaning to or disregard and not take offense to. If you hear very general statements that could just as easily apply to anyone else then be wary.

The psychic is fishing for information from you to feed back to you under the guise of a psychic reading. Chances are they are fake and employing cold reading techniques to appear psychic.

If you reveal too much when a psychic makes a “hit” (a correct statement) then, chances are they will continue to surreptitiously con you to delve deeper and reveal more about that particular area of your life. You may even begin to feel that they know as much about you as you do about yourself. This is a cold reading, not a psychic reading. If you can, you might like to leave the session as soon as possible and preferably with your money in tact.

#### **Language - how much of reading was jargon and generalizations?**

If the psychic uses lots of jargon which is obviously designed to either confuse you or get your mind to wandering off in other directions, then you need to be cautious. A genuine psychic will be reasonably focused from the outset. A fake is more likely to speak in general terms and jump from one topic to another in a confused manner.

If the psychic keeps repeating very general statements such as “you have a tendency to be critical of yourself” or “you have a lot of potential or unused capacity” then you should be skeptical. These statements apply to anyone and everyone and are therefore not unique to your reading.



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### **Did reader name drop or refer to important clients by name?**

Name dropping is a technique that is often employed by fake psychics in an attempt to improve their status. Supposedly, it helps their credibility and standing with clients but this is just another slick technique, just like cold reading. Be suspicious and wary. If the psychic divulges who their clients are, what will they tell others about you?

Keep this in mind when you are listening to a recording of your consultation. Privacy is the minimum you would expect from any professional and this includes psychics.

### **Were any sweeping claims made?**

A scam will oftentimes involve a pseudo psychic making outrageous claims. They will claim that some troubling event in the future awaits you. Possibly, they will suggest that the only way to avoid this event befalling you is to continue seeing them on a regular basis.

There have also been outrageous cases in which the client has been told that the solution to all their problems lies in winning the lottery or purchasing lucky charms – from them.

Often, a scammer will try and persuade you to believe that the answers to all your problems lay outside of yourself. A sham psychic reading won't be about empowering you.

Most likely, it will be aimed at increasing your dependence on the scammer. When you hear sweeping claims, then use common sense. When you hear a psychic signing you up for a series of appointments or purchases, be very wary. It is more likely that this course of action is intended to help them, not you.

### **Were you encouraged to buy other products from the psychic in addition to the consultation fee?**

There have been reports of psychic scams involving the client being pressured into buying items from the sham psychic. Such items may include candles, incense, lucky charms, prayers and even – expensive trips for the psychic.

For example, one story goes that a fraudulent psychic first approached a potential client and offered to help them for free by 'removing her bad energy'. There was no charge for the consultations that did take place. However, the client felt obliged to buy candles and crystals from the fraud psychic, to accelerate her healing. These items were anything from \$20 to \$90 each.

Later on, there were even more expensive purchases involving hundreds of dollars. As the story goes, the fraudulent psychic even claimed that she had to go to Florida to meditate and pray for the client, as this was where the 'negativity' was sited. This trip was expensive; the whole scheme was a sham; but the vulnerable client paid.



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The Internet is filled with stories like this. Just be mindful. If you are asked to buy items from a psychic to remedy your ailments, be very wary that a scam may be taking place. There should be no need to buy any of these things.

### **Were you persuaded to make follow up appointments?**

Another trick used by scammers is to put pressure on you to make a follow up appointment or even a series of appointments. You will probably be given a number of reasons that may even seem logical at the time. Step back and look at the situation. What will you get out of this? Is there more in it for the sham psychic than you perhaps?

Some of the common reasons that are given to persuade you include:

“You are a special case and I want to spend more time helping you”

“There is a lot of dark energy around you and I need more time to remove it”

“You need to be purified with a ritual”

“You have a dark aura around you that needs to be removed”

There are many other variations to this theme but essentially they are very suspicious statements. They are designed to provoke fear and dependency. Some fraudsters even suggest certain consequences will arise if you don't return to them.

A genuine psychic would never use persuasive techniques to convince you to spend more money. It is completely unethical and unnecessary.

### **Were curses mentioned?**

Curses are another very popular mention made by scam artists. They use this technique to scare clients into seeing them again or spending more money, or both. This psychological hook is used to defraud you of your money. Don't fall for this blackmail.

The idea is to make the client dependent on the sham psychic so that they feel the need to keep going back again and again, spending more and more money. All of this is done under the guise of removing a curse that only exists in the mind of the psychic.

Not only do these threats defraud clients, they also tend to damage them psychologically and emotionally. Sweeping statements about the link between being cursed and having a hard time in relationships, careers, health etc are all designed to scare the client into becoming a repeat, dependent client.

There are hundreds, if not thousands of cases of people who find themselves in financial ruin because they have been tricked by bogus psychics. A genuine psychic won't talk of curses and superstitions, and they certainly won't try and defraud you out of your hard earned dollars.



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### **Were you asked to divulge your date of birth, star sign, and country of residence - information not needed by genuine psychics?**

If you are asked for personal information in advance of the reading then you need to be wary. This psychic is fishing for hints, leads pieces of information that they can weave into their reading. It is easy to make high probability guesses just by knowing your date of birth, country of residence, marital status etc.

For example, the sham psychic may reasonably guess the age of your parents and whether they are alive or dead, based on your personal details. A genuine psychic never needs to know such information in advance of a reading.

Of course, your accent, tone of voice, dress etc are also potential indicators about you, your life, job, level of wealth, character and overall happiness.

A genuine psychic will reveal personal things that neither they nor others could have ascertained just from your appearance and your demeanor.

### **Who did most of the talking?**

Did you do most of the talking in your session? Were you asked too many questions?

Listen to the recording and make up your mind who was telling who the most in the appointment. If the psychic kept asking you for information then you need to be very suspicious. The psychic should do most of the talking as you are paying them for their insights. They should be giving you insights into your life that help, support and even reassure you.

Genuine psychics will pass on information to you, not the other way around. They don't need you to tell them much about why you have sought them out. They are not out to exploit you in any way and should not do anything, or say anything that alarms you.

If you are ever uncomfortable about revealing something, then don't. You are under no obligation and it may even hurt you to reveal certain personal details. If in doubt don't. You can divulge more later in the session, when you know you are dealing with a genuine, ethical psychic.

### **Free psychic readings**

This is another simple way to spot a potential scam. On the one hand, there are some legitimate psychics who do their work free of charge. They believe that their gift is God given and as such, they don't feel right about charging for the information that comes through them. On the other hand, there are sham psychics who use the ploy of a free introductory offer to suck in new clients.



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When you see paid advertisements that offer free psychic readings be very careful. Oftentimes what happens is that when you call these phone chatlines you may get a few free minutes with a psychic. However, as soon as your time runs out, the psychic is on to you to start paying. This type of pressured sale does not come from ethical psychics.

They might tell you something like “I have something very exciting to share with you, but your time is up. Would you like me to continue the reading?” They will then ask for your credit card details. Please know that when you ring these numbers chances are that you are speaking to someone who is reading from a preprepared script. This is not, in any way, a personalized reading for you, and all the sham psychic wants is your money.



### Steps to take to protect yourself

- Do some research on your chosen psychic before you even contact him or her. Look for evidence to support any claims that are made by them or their supposed clients.
- Look elsewhere for independent advice if you are even consider investing a lot of time or money with a psychic. Don't put your trust solely in one psychic – regardless of whether you consider them to be genuine or a sham. We all need multiple supports in our life and there are many other types of professionals who are available to offer help.
- If you are told something about yourself, don't just accept it as an insight from the spirit world. Review the section in this ebook on cold reading and reconsider just how personal and detailed are the insight offered by your psychic. Are you sure what has been said is unique to you or could the statements have applied equally to other people?
- Know the total cost of a consultation before you begin. Never start a consultation unless you know what it will cost. You should also always ask about hidden costs.
- The authorities are aware of the many types of scams involving psychics that are doing the rounds, so you should also consider checking with your local office of fair trading before committing to a consultation with a psychic. This could save you a lot of time and money.
- If you are dealing with a psychic online, use Paypal or a credit card but be sure that your information, and you are protected. If the psychic only deals in cash, then you can be fairly certain that they are not legitimate, probably not ethical, and are not conducting a lawful business.
- If you ever feel a psychic has power over you, then, if you can, you should remove yourself from them immediately. There are many scammers whose sole aim is to exert personal control over their clients. Be warned this is dangerous and unhealthy, and only you can be the judge.
- If you are ever told not to tell people about your reading because it will bring 'bad luck' or prevent the spirit world from helping you, then you need to stop any contact with the psychic right there. Chances are that this is done to stop you finding out that you have been given the same, or a very similar reading to other clients.





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- If the psychic tells you that something that you own is the source of a curse, and you need to bring it to them (so they can remove the curse), this is just another elaborate hoax to get you to book another appointment.
- Listen to your own intuition at all times. You are the best guide of what is right for you. At any stage of the process (the advert, the referral, the initial contact or the consultation), if you feel that you are being manipulated or things don't make sense, then stop, think and follow your intuition. A little skepticism goes a long way and so does a little personal intuition.

### Ethical Psychics

Remember that there are more ethical and legitimate psychics out there than there are scammers. However, it is an unfortunate fact of life that the scammers do bring the industry into disrepute. Certainly, their existence stops many people who would otherwise consider using the services of a genuine psychic, from enjoying the benefits of what can be a very enriching experience.

Genuine psychics don't have hidden costs and add ons. They don't have special items on hand just so you can purchase from them. The advertisements for professional psychics are modest in their tone, honest and free from baits and hooks to draw people in.

Ethical psychics are great healers and helpers of humanity. They genuinely love the work they do and as mentioned before, some offer their services without any thought of financial reward. They see it as their duty and responsibility to help people by using their gifts for the good of all.

Many of the best psychics are closely aligned with church groups and some are involved with charities and they give their time freely to these worthy causes. There are others who work within spiritualist groups and allow people to sit with them in the circle.

Genuine psychics have genuine talent. They don't need props and elaborate settings to do their work. In fact, many prefer to work quietly, calmly and discretely with their clients. Not for them the bright lights and applause. True psychics know their gifts come from a higher source and they don't seek to use their talents and gifts to achieve fame and fortune.

We hope you use the information in this ebook to help protect yourself and your loved ones from the few, but influential psychic frauds out there. Beware and take care. We wish you the best for a safe and fulfilling spiritual journey.



## Resources

### The College of Psychic Studies

Mail 16 Queensberry Place  
London SW7 2EB **UK**  
Email [admin@collegeofpsychicstudies.co.uk](mailto:admin@collegeofpsychicstudies.co.uk)  
Website <http://www.collegeofpsychicstudies.co.uk/index.html>

### American Society for Psychical Studies

Mail 5 West 73<sup>rd</sup> St  
New York 10023 **USA**  
Email [aspr@aspr.com](mailto:aspr@aspr.com)  
Website <http://www.aspr.com>

### Australian Institute of Parapsychological Research

Email [lance.storm@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:lance.storm@adelaide.edu.au)  
Website <http://www.aiprinc.org>

### Parapsychological Association

Mail PO Box 24173  
Columbus OH 43224 **USA**  
Email [Parapsychological Association](http://www.parapsych.org)  
Website [Parapsych Org](http://www.parapsych.org)

### Russell Targ

Website [ESP Research](http://www.espr.com)

### Rhine Research Center

Mail Building 500 2741 Campus Walk Avenue  
Durham NC 27705 **USA**  
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### Dean Radin

Website [Dean Radin](http://www.deanradin.com)  
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### The Windbridge Institute

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### Skeptiko

Email [Alex Tsakiris](#)  
Website [Science at the Tipping Point](#)

### Psychic Revolution

Website [Where Paranormal Phenomena are the Norm](#)

