Celebrity Couples Who Let Social Media Run Their Relationship





By <u>Courtney Omernick</u>

With the Internet being so prevalent these days, some people make the argument that relationships are "not official until they're 'Facebook' official." And, it seems that many celebrities are taking this phrase to heart and publicizing their relationship on their Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and other social media feeds. Below, Cupid has three celebrity couples that have let social media run their relationship.

1. Khloe Kardashian and Lamar Odom: Yes, even though this pair isn't technically together any more, professing their love via social media was always a constant. Whether it was Lamar

tweeting words of encouragement regarding a project Khloe was working on, or an Instagram shot of Khole wearing clothing from Lamar's line, these two couldn't get their devotion onto the Internet fast enough!

Related: Social Media Etiquette for Your #Wedding Day

2. Beyonce and Jay-Z: Yes, Beyonce's Instagram is usually filled with pictures of herself, but, she also uses it to showcase images of her and her hubby on stage and off. And, while Jay-Z isn't very active on social media, when he does participate, you can always find his pages filled with pictures of his wife and daughter.

Related: <u>How to Prevent Yourself from Rushing into a</u>
Relationship

3. Heidi Montag and Spencer Pratt: As if their heavily televised romance wasn't enough, these two have taken their relationship to social media. Spencer is known for constantly tweeting about "how amazing" Heidi's body is, and, the two have staged online fights just to get the attention of gossip columnists.

Do you know someone whose relationship is fueled through social media? Let us know in the comments!

The Dating Lounge: You're Invited to an Exclusive Dating Community





This post is

sponsored by The Dating Lounge.

By Brittany Stubbs

The Dating Lounge is the first ever invitation-only dating community on Facebook where friends date each other's friends. It was created by Samantha Daniels, one of the foremost professional matchmakers and dating experts in the country, to provide singles with exactly what they want in today's dating world: real-time information, connections to people they know, and accuracy in an exclusive invitation-only community.

Unlike other dating sites, The Dating Lounge pulls information directly from Facebook profiles, allowing you to see how you are connected to a potential date through the mutual friends you share. The site is populated by all friends of friends; once you join, you get to invite 10 of your friends, and then they get to invite 10 of their friends, and so on.

Another reassuring part of this dating app is the fact that it

was created by someone who knows the dating world. Daniels is owner of the bicoastal matchmaking service called Samantha's Table. Responsible for over 250 marriages and thousands of substantial relationships, she works with high-profile people and celebrities, matching and advising them on how to find that one person who is missing in their life.

She founded The Dating Lounge with the idea that she could create "a small world for dating," where people had the capability of dating as their real self, in real time, with the information pulled directly from an already-existing profile. Members of The Dating Lounge are busy and successful. They don't have time to waste going on bad dates; they prefer to know more information upfront so they can strategically determine who they would like to meet.

Some things to check out once you are in The Lounge:

- The "About the Dating Lounge" page as well as the "Story Behind the Lounge" so you get a good sense of what the site is all about and the specifics of why it was created.
- The "Invite a Friend" page where each member gets to invite 10 friends, who in turn can invite 10 friends and so on, keeping The Lounge by invitation only.
- The "Facebook profile" button on each person's profile page, which links their Dating Lounge profile to their Facebook page so members get to find out more about who they're thinking about dating.
- The "Mutual Friends" button, which allows members to see which friends they have in common with a potential date, providing a natural connection and a sense of comfort.
- The "Email a Mutual Friend" button, which allows members to automatically request that a mutual friend make an introduction for them to a potential love interest, just like they would ask them to do *in real life*.

For an invitation to The Dating Lounge, go to the app page and request an invitation by clicking on "Don't have invitation code?"

11 Good Reasons to Keep Your Relationship Status Secret





By Kelly Rouba for

Galtime.com

You know that euphoria that fills you up when you first start dating someone? That fun and excitement of entering a new relationship that makes us want to shout it from the rooftops for all to hear? That feels really good. But sometimes, sharing the news widely isn't a good idea. Sometimes, we

should keep the rooftop-shouting only within range of our closest friends — at least for a little while — before we broadcast it online.

Carlee, of New Jersey, kept her relationships status quiet when she got back together with her ex-boyfriend.

"When I broke up with him, I hid my relationship status so I didn't have to deal with people asking me what happened. I kept it hidden even after we got back together a couple months later, until I was sure things were okay between us and so people wouldn't interfere in our relationship," Carlee said. "Now that we've been back together for a while, it's unhidden again."

April, of New Jersey, understands Carlee's quietness, which is why her Facebook status always indicates she is in a relationship even though she is currently single.

"I also want to avoid people asking questions like 'what happened' or just knowing information I may still be sensitive to," April says, adding that she also keeps that status for safety purposes. "I don't want unnecessary people sending me inappropriate messages or text messages."

Relationship expert and dating consultant Stacie Ikka says displaying your true relationship status on Facebook isn't necessarily a bad idea, but there are instances when it's smart to hold off on announcing who you are dating or if you are involved with someone at all to your online circles.

Here's when she says it's best to keep your relationship status quiet.

1. IF YOU GET A LOT OF UNWANTED POKES, WINKS AND INVITATIONS

Some people see a "single" status on Facebook as an invitation to be in contact, overtly flirt or even harass someone. If you are getting invitations that make you uncomfortable, consider leaving your relationship status blank.

"If you are single and not necessarily looking to use Facebook as a dating site and simply selected that status because you thought that all fields in your profile needed to be filled out—BEWARE!," Ikka says. Sometimes other singles, and even people who are in relationships already, prey on women who announce that they are on the market.

2. IF YOU DON'T WANT OTHER PEOPLE TO INTERFERE IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP OR ROMANTIC BUSINESS

"For a relationship to develop between two people in a way that leads to a healthy future, it is often best that the details and status of that relationship be contained among the two people involved—and the select few they choose to confide in," Ikka advises.

This also goes for those who are entering a new relationship.

"Moving from a casual to a committed relationship can often be tricky," Ikka offers, "and opening up that relationship to an online audience, which is presumably broader than one's immediate social circle, opens the relationship up to commentary—some of which could be damaging, especially if the relationship is new."

Consider keeping your status quiet for a certain amount of time or until the two of you feel secure in this new arrangement. Like Carlee, you may also want to consider updating your status at that point without sharing it widely through your newsfeed.

3. IF YOU WANT TO EASE SOME OF THE PRESSURE

"If the couple has not discussed how or whether they are going to 'announce' their union on Facebook, and one party goes ahead and changes their status, it might make the other party feel uncomfortable or put unnecessary pressure on that person," Ikka says. "Even if it was a joint decision, it exposes the relationship to scrutiny, observations, and involvement that is not necessarily appropriate during the early phases of a relationship, where the focus should really be on whether attraction, compatibility, common values, and shared interests will survive the long-term."

4. IF YOU WANT AN EASIER BREAKUP

Splitting up can be more complicated if a thousand of your Facebook friends can see your status.

"Breakups are painful in the best of times," reminds Ikka. And changing a status from "in a relationship" to "single" or even "it's complicated" can draw attention right in the middle of that pain. "Even if that attention comes in the form of support and sympathy to an already difficult, personal, and emotional experience."

5. IF YOU'RE FED UP WITH JUDGMENT ABOUT YOUR LOVE LIFE

Facebook is not your diary or a private conversation with your best friend. It's a loudspeaker to every one of your coworkers, high-school frenemies, mom's friends, and siblings you are connected with on the social network. Not all of them may get the situation, or you.

"If you are the type of Facebook user who updates your relationship status on a regular basis and that status is changing with a frequency that others may deem abnormal, you are opening yourself up to judgment, ridicule, and the potential for losing credibility amongst your Facebook network," Ikka says bluntly. "So, if you are sensitive to other people's opinions, think carefully before changing your relationship status and ask yourself why you're doing it."

6. IF YOU OFTEN GIVE IN TO PEER PRESSURE

In many relationships, Ikka says, one person is more guarded

about their personal life and details. The other person may be more forthcoming and therefore have no issue with listing their relationship status online.

"It's not uncommon in these circumstances for the more private individual to feel pressure to change their status for fear of not appearing loyal or committed to their partner or the relationship," Ikka notes.

Resentment can build, she says, and the private person may let that spill over into real-life interactions with their partner.

"It's usually a sign of bigger problems," Ikka adds.

Avoid this friction by discussing what works best for both of you, even if that means the more open person lists a status and is understanding if the more private partner doesn't.

7. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR FROM A NOSY OR AGGRESSIVE EX

Want to nix any opportunity for your ex to get back in touch, troll around your profile or hunt for more infomation about your new relationship? Then consider keeping your status set at a lower volume.

Showing you're in a relationship can be an invitation for exes to peer into your current love life, Ikka says.

"Although nosy exes always have their offline ways of determining your relationship status, putting your relationship status on Facebook — especially if you are naming the person you're in the relationship with — only encourages 'stalker'-type behavior and may prompt them to attempt to sabotage or disrupt your new relationship," she warns.

Those who are in the process of divorcing may also want to avoid displaying their relationship status, especially if they've begun seeing someone new.

"If you are in the process of a separation or a divorce, it might not be a good idea to draw attention to your relationship status for the benefit of any children involved, especially if they are on Facebook, and to protect yourself throughout any court proceedings."

8. IF YOU HAVE OVERBEARING PARENTS

Have parents who are anxious for you to get married or just be partnered up?

Stating that you are in a relationship could give your "parents false hope, further fodder for offline marital pressure, and render them an even greater annoyance as well as promote unnecessary involvement in your personal life," Ikka warns. Keep in mind, "even if they're not on Facebook, they will find out…and FAST!"

9. IF YOU'RE NOT UP FOR EXPLAINING COMPLICATED CIRCUMSTANCES

Although it might be tempting to select the "it's complicated' relationship status, Ikka advises against it.

Why?

"You are professing to the Facebook world that you are in relationship that is not completely fulfilling you and that you are settling," she explains. "We all know you deserve better than that — even if you don't believe it yourself. Again, you are opening yourself up to unnecessary judgment, loss of credibility, perhaps pity, and vulnerability. All relationships have their complications, but if you're with the right partner, then your status would simply read 'In a Relationship.' Anyone who's ever been in a relationship understands that things are not always perfect and, at times, may be complicated."

10. IF YOU DON'T THINK OPEN RELATIONSHIPS HAVE TO BE AN OPEN BOOK

"While in this day and age, society may be more accepting of alternate forms of relationships, like polyamorous, bisexual, transgender, homosexual, etc., this is another category that leaves you wide open to judgment," Ikka cautions. "People will naturally jump to conclusions. For example, they may believe you have commitment issues or that you are promiscuous or whatever else this status conjures up in their imaginative minds."

You don't have to be responsible for other people's concerns, criticisms or even their assumptions. But if you have a tendency to get wrapped up in them or if you would rather put your kind of relationship up for public scrutiny, then consider educating and informing others about in ways outside of social networks.

11. IF YOUR PROFILE IS FOR PROFESSIONAL USE

Facebook, for many folks, is a professional networking tool, an avenue for job-hunting or a way to stay in touch with clients. Many companies also use Facebook to check up on their employees or to survey someone's social presence before a job interview.

"If you are using Facebook for business purposes or suspect your personal information could get back to your employers or associates, then you may want to keep your page purely professional, this includes keeping your relationship status hidden," Ikka advises.

Mark Zuckerberg Updates His

Facebook Status to 'Married'





Facebook founder and

billionaire Mark Zuckerberg has changed his relationship status to "married," according to <u>UsMagazine.com</u>. Zuckerberg, 28, married Priscilla Chan, 27, Saturday at his home in Palo Alto, Calif. and was quick to post the announcement on Facebook. The "life event," which includes a photo of the couple holding hands and smiling, was posted early on Sunday. Zuckerberg and Chan met while attending Harvard University and have been dating ever since.

How can social media play a positive role in your relationship?

Cupid's Advice:

Social media can be a great way to keep friends and family updated on the pluses in your relationship. Here are a few

ways to keep positive conversation going:

- 1. Avoid relationship overload: Relationship posts are great when they're not clogging up everyone's newsfeeds. Keep your posts limited, and people will respond to the two of you in a more positive manner.
- 2. Keep your pictures appropriate: While your friends may love to see shots of your vacation in Hawaii, no one wants to go through an album filled with photos of the two of you kissing. Save PDA-style photos for wedding or engagement shoots.
- **3. Make announcements:** The people you love will appreciate knowing when new things happen to the two of you getting engaged, getting married, buying a home, and having kids are almost as exciting to them as they are to you. Share the joy of your relationship with others.

How do you portray your relationship on Facebook? Let us know below.

Is Facebook Destroying Your Love Life?





By Jennifer

Harrington

Popular social networking sites, such as Facebook, are great for many things. Re-connecting with old classmates, checking out your best friend's vacation photos and sharing the news that you had an exciting celebrity sighting, are some of the best reasons to log on. But when it comes to your love life, is Facebook your friend... or foe?

Social media provides access to all of the key information about the object of your affection. Status updates revealing their whereabouts, wall posts indicating updates from their friends and photos that can point to previous romantic partners, offer you a glimpse into their private world. If relationships are about getting to know the other person better, it's easy to see how checking your better half's page many times per day might be justified.

With newspapers like *The New York Times* dedicating articles to teaching kids how to break-up nicely online, it is apparent Facebook has changed how we interact with each other. Therefore, Cupid advises you that when it comes to Facebook and your love life, Facebook is a relationship mine field that

must be navigated carefully. So, before you hit the "refresh" button on your sweetie's page again, ask yourself a few questions to figure out if Facebook is destroying your love life:

Are you using Facebook as a window into another person's life?

If so, get off the computer immediately. Pick up the phone to chat with your special someone, or make a date to catch up over coffee. Nothing takes the place of live interaction when building and maintaining a relationship.

Related: 5 Ways Technology Is Ruining Your Dating Life

Do you get upset about things you see on Facebook?

There's a lot of room for misunderstanding; from old pictures being posted to comments from friends taken out of context. If you see something that upsets you, take the time to talk it through with the other person. Don't draw conclusions solely based upon what you've seen online.

Does your honey know you are stalking their page?

If you have found yourself slipping and mentioning to your significant other things you've noticed on their page, this is a warning sign. People like to be noticed, but not stalked online. If your partner knows you are snooping, it may make them feel like you don't trust them.

Have you de-friended your significant other (or their friends) out of anger?

Always avoid de-friending in a moment of fury. Reports suggest that *The Jersey Shore's* Sammi "Sweetheart" Giancola has de-friended her on- again, off-again boyfriend, Ronnie Ortiz Magro's friends in moments of rage — and everybody knows that is not a model relationship.

Related: Are Jersey Shore's Sammi and Ronnie Back Together?

While it's hard to imagine life without Facebook, don't lose sight of the fact that relationships are built on love and trust and not what appears on Timeline. If you're interested in learning more about maintaining healthy relationships both online and offline, check out a recent article from The Huffington Post titled "6 Tips for Healthy Relationships" which highlights relationship advice from experts including Dr. Drew and Dr. Phil.

Has Facebook destroyed your love life? Share your stories below.

Five Ways Social Media Can Help Your Relationship





By Diamon Hall

Perhaps you reconnected with the girl who used to pinch you on the playground, the professor who inspired you to land your dream job or a long lost distant relative who lives in Germany. Whatever it may be, websites like Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google+, or MySpace are used in many different creative ways. In fact, it seems that people can hardly function without social media nowadays. It helps you keep in touch with family, friends and even people you wouldn't normally communicate with if it weren't for those sites. If social media can help you in the platonic aspects of your life, then it can certainly help your love life, whether that means meeting a new flame or enhancing a relationship you already have. Here are five ways social media can aid you in matters of the heart:

1. More ways to keep in touch: Just like social media can help you keep in touch with family and friends, it can also help you keep in touch with your mate. You may not always be able to pick up your phone to call or even shoot a text. If you're at work and there's a computer available, it's probably easier to log on to a social site like Facebook and chat for a quick minute or send a personal message just to say "I love you."

Related Link: 5 Reasons Why Men Text Instead of Call

- 2. Dig deeper before the first date: If you're just meeting someone for the first time, social media can greatly assist you in figuring out who this person is and what you can expect. Although you shouldn't judge solely on what you read online, the image someone gives off via social media sites can be telling. Browse through their identifying information, photos, and friend's comments. Often times it's insightful to see how a potential partner interacts with others.
- 3. Stay close even when distant: You or your honey may have to go out of town without the other sometimes. You can upload pictures of yourself to let them know what's occupying your time while they're not there. Facebook has even incorporated video chat on their site, which is a great way to seemingly shrink the distance between the two of you.
- 4. Communicate more with his or her family: Finally, social media is a way around being the shy one at the extended family dinner table. Your partner's family is going to want to see you in person sometimes, but for the other times, talk to them via a social site. They'll be thrilled to know you think enough of them to include them in your virtual social life.
- **5. Everyday use:** Sometimes you may not have the money to send flowers and candy, or even to go out to dinner. Your lives may be very hectic and you may hardly get enough time to talk. Utilizing social media will help you feel connected.

Related Link: Do's and Don'ts of Flirtexting and Sexting

How has social media helped your relationship? Share your experiences below.

5 Ways Technology is Ruining Your Dating Life





By Melissa Tierney

There's no denying we are a society addicted to technology. While this fact may not necessarily be a bad thing when it comes to your day-to-day life, our technological habits may be making it impossible to form 'real' relationships with the targets of our affection. It seems that the days of in-person or over-the-phone conversations are gone, and instead we are left with e-mail, texting, or social networking sites as the normal way of communicating, normally in 140 characters or less. So although technology may make it easier to meet someone, does it really help nurture a relationship?

1. Tuning Out the World Around You: It's become a part of life

to have our Blackberry stuck to our ear whether we are at work, running errands or even out with friends, but what does this say about us? Experts agree, when people are glued to their phones it's a sign that they aren't open to meeting new people. This is the complete opposite message you want to be sending if you are indeed "on the market." If you seem preoccupied and uninterested, no one is going to approach you in order to get to know you, let alone ask you out. Whether you're out alone or with your friends, take some helpful advice and put the phone down — you never know who may be watching you, waiting to make his or her move.

- 2. More Likely to Cheat: Studies have proven that people who are addicted to technology and social networking are more likely to cheat. Since they are constantly 'meeting' new people every day, and communicating with them via the Internet, it is more likely to turn a friendly conversation into flirting. The worst part of this is that others don't even consider what they are doing as 'cheating' or 'flirting'. By being able to meet someone with the click of a mouse, it makes people appreciate less what they already have.
- 3. Cyberstalking: With sites like Facebook, Twitter and Four Square, people are now able to track down their partner's whereabouts without being caught. By engaging in this kind of behavior, you can ruin an existing or new relationship. When you cyber-stalk your honey, you're going to over-analyze everything they do: who they are talking to; who they have pictures with; and where they are going. This may indicate a trust issue in the relationship. While you may be tempted to cyber-stalk your beau, don't do it it will cause nothing, but problems.
- 4. Not Paying Attention: How annoying is it to go on a date with someone who won't turn their phone off and focus his attention on you? Just because you have your phone with you, that doesn't mean you should be responding to a text, e-mail, or call. When you're on a date, you should be focusing your

attention on the other person and what he or she is saying. How are you supposed to get to know someone who you might possibly have a future with if you can't even focus and pay attention in the present?

5. It's Not Official Until It's On the Internet: Apparently relationships are no longer 'official' until they're spread all over the internet, which makes many people feel uncomfortable. So it begs the question — is it necessary to plaster your relationship status all over Facebook? On the one hand, some believe that unless you have something to hide, you and your beau should both change your relationship status on Facebook as well as indicate who you are in a relationship with to show you are both 'off limits'. Conversely, others believe that your 'status' shouldn't be broadcast on a website and that it isn't anyone else's business. Either way, 5 years ago this situation wasn't something we had to deal with and it's another reason why technology may be ruining your dating life.

What other examples can you think of that demonstrate technology is taking a toll on your dating life? Share your thoughts below!

Facebook Founding President Sean Parker Is Engaged





Facebook

C O -

president Sean Parker is engaged, reports <u>People</u>. Parker's rep confirmed that the Napster co-founder proposed to long-time girlfriend Alexandra Lenas, a singer/songwriter from New York.

How do you make sure work doesn't get in the way of your relationship?

Cupid's Advice:

Balancing your personal life and your career is a task not even the most experienced workers have yet been able to master. Here are a few ways to make sure you have equal time for both:

- 1. Set aside time: You should make a little bit of time for your partner every day. Even if the time allotted is as little as an hour, your partner will appreciate that you feel your relationship is as important as your work.
- 2. Plan date nights: Even if you've been overloaded at work, that shouldn't stop you from planning nights that are dedicated completely to your relationship. Abandon your work for an evening and go out to dinner.

3. Make it up: If you're overwhelmed with work on a certain night and have no time for your partner, make it up to him or her. Send her roses the next day or take her to dinner the next night.

Social Do's for Dating Mark Zuckerberg





By Vicky Sullivan

In the opening scene of the recent box office hit, *The Social Network*, the fictional Mark Zuckerberg (Jesse Eisenberg) insults girlfriend, Erica Albright (Rooney Mara,) by debasing her background and education. She then says, "Dating you is like dating a stair master." And quickly dumps him. 500

Million friends and billions of dollars later, the real Zuckerberg and girlfriend Priscilla Chan, who he met while studying at Harvard, have just become Palo Alto's 'it' couple. It must be tough dating a billionaire at the helm of one of the world's most influential websites. Especially, when you have lawsuits and the paparazzi following you. However, Chan has stuck with Zuckerberg through it all. According to <u>People</u>, the couple live together in a modest Shortly after the release of the film, the rented house. reclusive Zuckerberg briefly let cameras into his home on a live broadcast of *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. In response to the movie, Zuckerberg said, "The last six years have been a lot of coding and focus and hard work. But, maybe it would be fun to remember it as partying and all this crazy drama." Perhaps, he isn't that much of a stair master after all.

How do you keep your relationship in perspective when you're dating someone rich and powerful?

Cupid's Advice:

Most people dream of being swept off their feet by someone with wealth, success, and fame. If you find yourself in that situation, here are a few things to remember:

- 1. Be yourself: Money can change everything or nothing at all. So when it comes to dating someone with wealth, remember they're just a regular person like everyone else with the same needs and insecurities.
- 2. Don't get intimidated: Your partner is and always will be your equal. Try not to feel that your partner is out of your league. After all, they chose you for a reason.
- **3. Jealousy isn't an option:** Jealousy shouldn't be a part of any relationship. However, when it comes to the rich and powerful, there is bound to be competition. Try not to let it get to you.