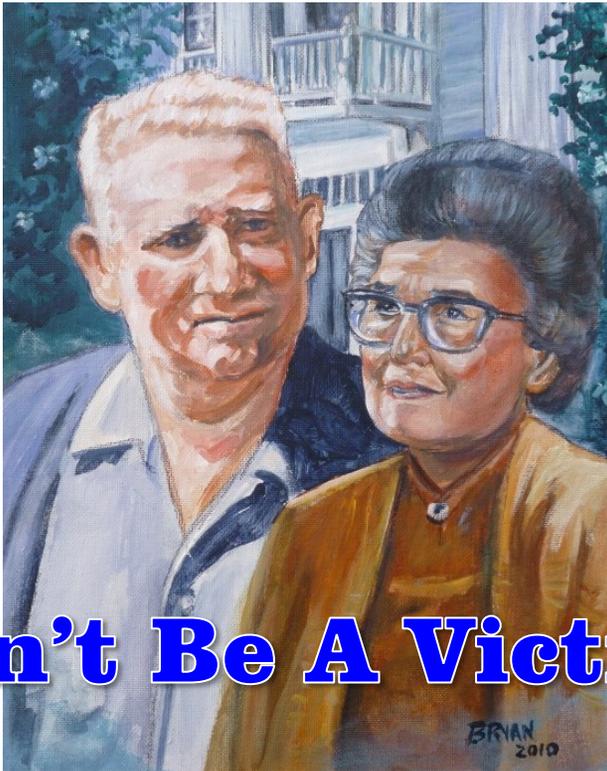


Grandparent Scam



Don't Be A Victim!



GRANDPARENT SCAM

TYPE OF SCAM

You get a call or an email unexpectedly from someone who claims to be a relative or close friend. This often happens to grandparents with the caller claiming to be their grandson or granddaughter. The caller says there's an emergency and asks you to send money immediately. But beware, there's a good chance this is an imposter trying to steal your money!

Recently a Lisle resident reported receiving a call from someone who said he was her grandson and he had been arrested on drug charges and needed money.

Keep in mind, this not limited to Grandparents. The scammer may also pretend to be a niece, nephew, cousin, close friend, etc.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SCAM

A grandparent receives a frantic call from someone they believe to be their grandchild. The supposed grandchild sounds distressed and may be calling from a noisy location. The supposed grandchild claims to be involved in some type of trouble, such as being arrested or in a car accident or needing emergency car repairs, and asks the grandparent to immediately wire money to post bail or pay for medical treatment or car repairs. The scammer typically asks for money, and may even call back again several hours or days later asking for more money. He or she may claim embarrassment about the alleged trouble and ask the grandparent to keep it a secret.

A common theme of this scam across the nation is the caller's request for the grandparent to wire money through Western Union or MoneyGram or to provide bank account routing numbers.

Sums can vary from several hundred to several thousand dollars,

sometimes over the course of two or three calls. In some instances, a second scammer calls back later pretending to be a law enforcement official or attorney, to confirm the story or ask for additional money. They may even claim to be employees of a U.S. embassy or consulate overseas.

How do these scammers know the names of your relatives?

In some cases they don't. For instance, the scammer may say "Hi grandma," hoping that you actually have a grandson. If you ask, "David, is that you?" the scammer will say "Yes!" Often these crooks will call in the middle of the night and take advantage of the fact that you may not be awake enough to ask more questions and you may not want to disturb other people by calling them to confirm the information. Sometimes the scammers do know the names of your friends or relatives. They can get that information from a variety of sources. Your relatives may be mentioned in an obituary or on a social networking site. Your email contact list may contain the names of friends and relatives.

VICTIM OF THIS SCAM

Should you be targeted in this type of scam, there are actions you can take to protect yourself. Although the supposed grandchild may plead with you not to tell his/her family, you should immediately reach out to parents or other relatives to verify the information you receive. In the vast majority of cases, the real relative is safely where he or she should be - at work, school or home. Then notify the Lisle Police Department.

HOW TO AVOID BEING SCAMMED

- Be suspicious when you receive a telephone call where:
- A grandchild calls you from a far away location.
- The grandchild says, "It's me," or "It's your grandson," or "It's your favorite grandchild" (without giving a name).
- The grandchild is in some trouble or some type of distress.
- The caller asks for money to be wire transferred

WHAT THE SCAMMER WANT\$

MONEY! And they will stop at nothing to get as much of your money as possible.

YOUR RESPONSE

Stay calm and avoid acting out of a sense of urgency. Do not wire money unless you have verified with an independent third party that your grandchild is truly in trouble. ***Never give out any personal identifying information such as bank account or credit card numbers to anyone who calls you on the phone.*** You should immediately reach out to parents or other relatives to verify the information you receive.

Important Facts to Remember

The callers are often professional criminals who are skillfully able to get you to wire money or give personal information before you have time to properly assess the situation. Reporting fraud can also help protect other potential victims.

One of the best ways to stop crime is to prevent it from occurring. When in doubt, call or contact the Lisle Police Department to check out the circumstances. We are here to help.

Further Information or Report an Incident Contact

Lisle Police Department at 630-271-4200 or 911

**This bulletin was prepared by the
Volunteers In Police Services Unit of the
Lisle Police Department**