



Crime Bulletin

Grandparent Scam



In the past several months, law enforcement agencies across Wisconsin and the United States have had some senior residents fall victim to the “Grandparent Scam”.

It starts with a frantic phone call. The caller misleads the grandparent into thinking the caller is their grandchild. The “grandchild” claims to be in trouble, often in Canada, and in desperate need of money. The caller asks the grandparent to wire them thousands of dollars so they can post bail or hire an attorney due to auto accident, an arrest, or payment for a medical bill.



The “grandchild” will often plead to the grandparent not to tell the “grandchild’s” parents about the situation. The caller will also pressure the grandparent to act quickly. Sadly, the caller is not their grandchild but a con-artist.

All around the country well-meaning and caring grandparents have wired thousands of dollars to these con-artists. If you receive one of these phone calls, do not give the caller any information. The caller may say “Hi grandma/grandpa, it’s me” or “Hi grandma/grandpa, do you know who this is” and let the grandparent fill in the name of their grandchild.

Always make the person tell you their name or ask which grandchild you are speaking to. The caller will realize they cannot continue on with the charade and will likely hang up.

On a rare occasion, the caller may provide the name of a grandchild, which they may have obtained off a social networking hub or personal website/web page. Ask the caller to provide information only your grandchild would know. Also, call your grandchild and relatives to confirm your “grandchild’s” story.

If you would like further information on the Grandparent Scam or any other scams, please speak to your local crime prevention officer