

GRANDPARENT SCAM!!!

(Also called "Emergency Cash" Phone Scam)

There is a new scam out there that is designed to separate the elderly from their money and it's a good one. It is being called the "Grandparent Scam" because it mostly [targets senior citizens](#) who have grandchildren. It is happening in the United States and Canada and begins with a frantic phone call. The caller pretends to be the grandson or granddaughter of the victim and claims they are in need of some emergency cash. They may claim to be in jail, in the hospital, or in the midst of some other crisis that requires the victim to wire them a large sum of money. In some cases, the caller pretends to be a police officer calling on behalf of the grandchild. In other variations, the caller will pretend to be an old neighbor or a friend of the family. Regardless of the setup, once that money is wired, there is no hope of getting it back.

"These criminals are preying on the emotions of some of society's most vulnerable people, the elderly. With a little work these thieves can find enough information on the Internet to make the calls seem legitimate," says Paulette Hotton Scarpetti, President of the Connecticut Better Business Bureau. "However, the grandparent can also inadvertently provide enough information to actually help the con artist."

Because there is a good chance that your grandparents are not reading this, it might be a good idea to give them a heads up yourself. Tell them that if they receive a call like this, they should never, ever send money. Instead, they should immediately hang up and call the grandchild in question to verify the story. For more information on protecting yourself and your loved ones from scammers, visit the Better Business Bureau web-site. You can also google "Grandparent Scam" for more information.

Contact Dakota Plains Credit Union for more information.

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