



TOWN OF NEWBURGH POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE – Crime Alert **February 20, 2015**

This is a reminder to the public that telephone scams are a continuous problem that frequently cost victims large sums of money.

Town of Newburgh Police have received several reports from residents in recent weeks that involve frauds commonly called “Granny Scams”. In these types of incidents a victim will answer the phone and the caller/perpetrator will convince the person who answers that he/she is a grandchild or other relative and that they are in some dire situation. The caller will typically describe being in another state or country under arrest, injured, victim of a serious crime, etc., and in immediate need of money to assist with the fabricated situation.

The perpetrators of such frauds are very good at what they do and use information and names provided by the victims themselves to further convince the victim that the “situation” is real.

Victims are generally told to immediately wire money (Western Union, MoneyGram, etc.) to the “relative” at a certain location but, in reality, the stolen money will be picked up at a different location.

Some examples of local residents being scammed:

- An elderly victim wired a total of \$24,000 in six (6) \$4,000 MoneyGram transactions to help out his “son” who was supposedly in need of help and was calling from “another country”. The victim’s real son lived nearby. The caller was so convincing that the victim never questioned why his son would have been out of the country.
- An elderly victim wired over \$3,000 to another state to assist a “grandchild” who was “arrested” and in need of fine monies. The real grandchild was local and not in any trouble.
- An elderly victim was prepared to wire \$2,000 to another state to assist a grandchild under arrest and in need of bail money. Before completing the transaction, the intended victim called the grandchild’s phone and found out that the grandchild was fine and not under arrest.

Residents need to be aware that these types of incidents are quite common and should be reported. Callers who demand the wiring of monies should be considered suspicious and victims should contact their law enforcement agency immediately.

Chief Michael Clancy