From the Desk of Detective Dave
Beware of Grandparents Scam
January 2016

It seems the "Grandparent Scam" is becoming more active in our community as I've received several inquiries from concerned and suspicious residents of the Town of Frederick. This scam is not new, but after seeing an increase in attempts and occurrences, this article serves as a reminder to be aware of this scam and to inform your family and friends.

What is the "Grandparent Scam?" Typically, a grandparent receives a phone call from a con-artist pretending to be their grandchild stating they're in some kind of trouble. Usually, they will say they've been arrested, in an accident or are being held in a foreign country and need money urgently. The con-artist will plead with the grandparent and play on their emotions to get them to send money, saying things such as, "Will you please help me? I'm really scared!" They will also tell the grandparent not to tell any other family members to avoid upsetting them.

A typical call will start with the con-artist saying, "Hi, Grandma (Grandpa)" and ask the grandparent if they know who it is. They'll wait for the grandparent to guess who it is and inadvertently provide them a name of a grandchild. Once the con-artist has a name provided by the grandparent, the play on their emotions begins. Wanting to help their grandchild, the grandparent sends the money requested. If a grandparent says something like, "It doesn't sound like you", the con-artist will explain they have a cold or broken nose in an attempt to gain the grandparent's confidence.

If you have received a request for a money transfer through a company such as Western Union, MoneyGram or through Greendot cards, etc., verify the requester's identity and if their story is legitimate. If you suspect you may be a victim, or a con-artist is attempting to defraud you in any way, contact the Frederick Police Department at 720-382-5700. Det. Dave Baumhover #975.

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