

# FRAUD ALERT

Please be sure of the person to whom you are sending money. There has been an increase in reports of fraud where a victim sends money to someone they believe is a family member.

The con artist calls random phone numbers until they believe they have an elderly victim on the phone. Conversations might go something like these:

Con: Grandpa!

Victim: Hi.

Con: Do you know who this is?

Victim: Randy?

Con: Yeah.

Con: Grandma!

Victim: Who is this?

Con: Your favorite granddaughter

Victim: Lisa?

Con: Hi!

The con artist goes on to claim he or she has been involved in a car accident, or is in jail and needs money wired immediately. They may also say they were hurt, and don't have their insurance card. They often times will say they are vacationing in Canada and they are calling their grandparents instead of their parents because they are scared. They will plead, "Please don't tell my parents about this!" "I promise I will pay you back within 2 months".

**Don't fall for it!!! If you receive a call like this, verify the story with the parents, ask questions only your family knows the answer to, and never offer up names or any personal information.** NEVER wire money (Moneygram or Western Union) without investigating first! Palatine residents have lost thousands of dollars to this scam over the last year.

Please call the Palatine Police Crime Prevention Unit with questions at 847-359-9061, or dial 911 to file a police report if you believe you have been the victim of fraud.



7/24/09