THE GRANDPARENT SCAM

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

WHAT IS IT?
The "Grandparent Scam" is a scam that targets the elderly in an attempt to steal large sums of money through a wire transfer.

Financial losses from this scam are usually several thousand dollars per victim.

HOW DOES IT HAPPEN?
A grandparent receives a phone call or email from someone who claims to be their grandchild.* The person states that he/she is traveling in a foreign country, has gotten into a bad situation, and needs money wired ASAP.

*Criminal may claim to be a police officer, lawyer, doctor, or other person.

WHAT CAN I DO?
RESIST the pressure to act quickly.

CONTACT your grandchild or another family member to determine whether the call is legitimate.

NEVER wire money based on a request made over the phone or in an email, especially overseas.

IF YOU HAVE BEEN SCAMMED
1. Contact your local law enforcement or state consumer protection agency.

2. File a complaint with Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3):

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES


Created by:
The National Center on Elder Abuse
www.ncea.aoa.gov