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March 4, 2010

**Windsor Heights Citizens:**

An increasingly common scam, taking the form of a grandchild calling from jail for bail money, has emerged in an unscrupulous attempt to bilk senior citizens out of their money. And the way they want senior's to send the money is through wired transactions like Western Union.

The Windsor Heights Police Department has recently taken a report of people claiming to be a grandchild or someone representing a grandchild in jail asking for money to be sent for bail charges in Canada. These scammers are very clever in their delivery of the scam in terms of what they say and how they say it in order to confuse or prey on the senior's emotions relating to their grandchild needing them. They may use a variety of issues that the 'grandson' is having and could come in many forms such as, being arrested and needing bail money, or that they've been in a car accident and need money to get home, or they have gotten themselves in some trouble and need money for an attorney while they are out of the country, just to name a few.

Should you receive one of the calls, please take the proper steps to protect yourself. If you are able, call the parent of your grandchild (your son or daughter) to verify where your grandchild is and explain to them the phone call you received. They should have current information as to where your grandchild is and they should be able to get a hold of them. Even IF the person on the other end of the phone asks you NOT to call their parent because "they want to explain the situation to them themselves when they get home," do not believe them. After you reach your child and explain the phone call you received, call the police.

Whether you are a senior citizen or not, if you know a senior citizen, please share this information with them.

Thank you,

Danielle Metzger, Detective

Windsor Heights Police