



OCEANSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE



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POLICE ALERT PUBLIC TO PHONE SCAM

The Oceanside Police Department is asking the public to be aware of a telephone scam that is targeting elderly grandparents.

For nearly six months, callers have been contacting grandparents over the telephone and telling them they are their grandson or granddaughters, and are in jail in Mexico or Canada. This is being done at random according to officers fielding the report calls. The caller will usually tell the victims not to contact their parents for fear of getting into trouble. When the victims fall prey to the supposed relative, they are sending money to a predetermined location thinking this is bail money to have the grandchild released from jail.

There have been approximately ten cases to date. During two of the scams, one victim sent \$66,000 and the second sent \$30,000 dollars. Usually the money has been wired to the suspect(s).

If people are receiving these types of telephone calls, please take the time to confirm the identity of the caller and verify the whereabouts of their grandchildren with their parents before any type of funds are sent.

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