

Neighborhood Watch Tips and/or Concerns  
Apr 07, 2016

Hello Neighborhood Watch Participants,

Just checking in to see how things are going I have nothing specific to report for your areas so I would like to pass on a few crime and safety tips for you to be aware of and use as a reference.

This scam is used to fool caring grandparents into thinking that grandchildren have found financial and criminal trouble in Mexico. The victim receives a telephone call from a lawyer in Mexico that is claiming to represent your grandchild. They claim your grandchild was involved in an accident where they are required to pay for damages to the second vehicle they struck. A younger male or female is placed on the phone and pretends to be your grandchild and asks for a few thousand dollars to be electronically transferred to Mexico. These people are excellent actors and will claim that your grandchild left college over the weekend to take a free trip to Mexico. The purpose of this trip is to stand up in a friend's wedding after the actual "best man" became ill and was unable to attend. The grandchild actor will also request that you not contact the parents because they are not aware of them leaving the country and all money will be paid back immediately when they return. At this point you leave the Western Union office thinking that your grandchild will be released from jail and they will not miss their flight back to the United States. Not a chance. Expect a second phone call stating that they forgot about the damage to the rental car. The deductible on the insurance will not arrive for three days and it needs to be paid prior to releasing your grandchild from the country.

I have received an actual complaint from a Winnebago County Citizen who had transferred \$5000 in a three hour period to an untraceable person in Mexico. The way to defeat this scam is easy. At the next family function pick a "Family Code Word". Pick a word that is easy to remember but not obviously associated with your family. When you receive that poor reception phone call from someone claiming to be a family member you can ask them what your code word is. When they are unable to repeat the proper word you can politely take a number and ask to call them back. Call your family member to prove that all are safe and accounted for and know that you just caused the criminals to move on.

Here are some web site that could also be useful.

National Do Not Call Registry  
<https://www.donotcall.gov/>

Wisconsin Do Not Call Registry  
[http://datcp.wi.gov/Consumer/No\\_Call/index.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1](http://datcp.wi.gov/Consumer/No_Call/index.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1)

Add names to the Junk Email Filter lists  
<https://support.office.com/en-us/article/Add-names-to-the-Junk-Email-Filter-lists-98B3C0F2-81AA-46CC-B198-20B9FAA9E831>

Deputy Bradley Vinje