



Thurston County Sheriff's Office

"Creating a Safer Community Together."

Sheriff Dan Kimball

Community Alert

Date: 01-23-09

Neighborhood/ Area: All areas of Thurston County

Nature of alert: Public Warning of Phone Scam

Details: The Sheriff's Office wishes to warn the public of a scam we are seeing more frequently this month. In two instances, citizens have reported receiving phone calls from subjects who pose as their grandson. This scammer claims to be in jail in Canada and needs bail money. In one case, a second suspect gets on the phone posing as an officer to instruct the victim how much money is needed. Victims may receive multiple phone calls from the suspects requesting money. In another case, the victim was told a female passenger had been injured in a collision that the "grandson" had been arrested for. The money was said to be needed for her medical bills.

One victim sent a money gram in the amount of \$3800. Another potential victim this month had second thoughts and did not send the \$3900. requested by the suspects. A local business who sends out money grams/wire transfers stated that at least two other victims had sent money in the last few days. The Sheriff's Office has seen at least three similar reports over the last few months but with 2 reported this month and at least two more that the local business has seen, we fear that the suspects are becoming more active and will attempt to victimize even more of our citizens.

Tips: Citizens need to ask callers specific personal questions that only their relative would know. They should try to contact their relative directly to verify their status. They should not send money in this manner, as a person in jail cannot pick up money grams or wire transfers. Contact the actual facility and verify the relative is in jail. Suspects usually hang up when questioned closely. If you have been a victim please report the incident to the law enforcement agency in which you live or to the jurisdiction where the incident occurred.

Photo (if necessary/ available):

Contact info: Lt. Mealy 360786-5508