



# News Release

Thurston County Sheriff  
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"Creating a Safer Community  
Together."

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## Public Warning of Phone Scam

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 was needed. Victims may receive multiple phone calls from the suspects requesting money. In one case, the victim was told a female passenger had been injured in the alleged collision the "grandson" had been arrested for and money was needed money for her medical bills.

One victim sent a money gram in the amount of \$3800. The second 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.

Citizen need to ask callers specific personal questions that only their relative would know. They should try to contact their relative and 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 attempt to the law enforcement agency in which you live or where the attempt was made.

Jim Chamberlain  
Chief Criminal Deputy