

WOODBIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

POLICE WARN OF NEW TWIST TO ELDERLY FRAUD / “GRANDPARENT ” SCAM

For years, numerous law enforcement agencies in our area and in neighboring states have reported a fraud, commonly called the “Grandparent” Scam, which has at times resulted in elderly victims being defrauded out of large sums of money. Scammers usually contact their victim by phone and tell them that a family member needs bail money resulting from a fictitious claim that the family member was arrested, usually out of state. In some instances, the scammers have identified themselves with true names of local police officers to gain credibility.

In the past several weeks, scammers have added a new component to their trickery and deceitfulness, and have sent a courier to pick up the money at the victim’s residence or at a location nearby.

Although this new twist to the scam has not occurred in our community, residents are reminded:

- Promptly report any suspicious telephone calls or activity to police.
- Call your family directly at trusted phone numbers to verify what you have been told.
- Never wire money, send cash, or buy gift cards for someone you have never met.
- If you are being pressured to act immediately, do not! That is a huge red flag.