



WISCONSIN STATEWIDE INFORMATION CENTER



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Alert Bulletin

Law Enforcement

October 24, 2008



*** * * Canadian Bail Money Scam * * ***

The Wisconsin Statewide Information Center (WSIC) has recently received information from a number of Wisconsin law enforcement agencies describing a fraud scheme currently targeting the elderly. The scam operates as follows:

An unknown male suspect telephone's an elderly victim and states, "Gramps" or "Grandma", I need help". "I got into some trouble (or an auto accident) in Canada." "I need bail money". The victims usually reply, "Is this (name of grandchild the caller's voice resembles)". The caller responds, "Yes, this is (name victim provided)". The suspect caller then requests the elderly victim wire transfer him money so he can get bailed out of jail. The suspect caller asks the elderly victim to keep this a "secret" because he is so embarrassed. The suspect caller is usually very emotional when speaking with the elderly victims.

The victims are told to wire the "bail money" via MoneyGram to Canada (Vancouver, Toronto & Montreal). Dollar amounts being wired to Canada are usually in \$5,000.00 increments.

On some occasions, the suspect will recontact the elderly victim advising him/her that he received the "bail money" but now needs additional monies wired for release of his passport.

In some instances, the victim's caller ID feature has captured the suspect caller's telephone number. Those numbers are being investigated but many appear to be originating from pre-paid wireless telephones.

Investigations are continuing.

The purpose of this notice is to encourage public service agencies to alert the elderly citizenry of this particular devious scam.