

Emergency Help

A scammer calls or messages on social media and pretends to be someone in trouble – a grandchild, other family member, or close friend. They need money right away to deal with an emergency / big problem.

GRANDPARENT SCAM

Mabel is a grandmother and close to her grandson Fred. She gets a frantic phone call from 'Fred'. He is totally distressed. He's been in a car accident, arrested, and needs bail money right away. "Please don't tell my mom. She'll be SO upset that I got in trouble again." Mabel sends money to 'Fred' through a wire transfer.

WARNING SIGNS FOR EMERGENCY SCAMS

- Emotional phone call, often late at night.
- Caller may start the call with 'do you know who this is?' looking for a name.
- Claims of an emergency / big problem. Asking for secrecy.
- Unusual payment methods.

IF YOU SUSPECT A SCAM ...

- PAUSE. Do a reality check. Does this make sense?
- VERIFY. Hang up and call the person.
- Ask questions that only that person would know. Use the 'safe' word if your family has one.
- Never use unusual methods to send money.
- End the contact, even if it hurts.

