

PRESSRELEASE

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BEWARE OF SCAMS

Recently Officer from the Coalinga Police Department has spoken to residents of Coalinga who had the potential of being the victim of a scam that is becoming more common. The residents have received telephone calls from a person pretending to be their grandson, stating he had been in a car accident and was in jail. A short time later the residents receive a second call from a person pretending to work for a Legal Aid office. That person then told the resident that if they wired money to a person in the Dominican Republic that their grandson would not have to face charges that could result in him facing jail time. The caller had been very adamant about the citizen not telling anyone of the telephone call, stating it was a 'Confidential Matter.' In doing this the caller is attempting to keep citizen from being told by family or friends that the call is a scam. The Coalinga residents were leery of the calls and notified family members who assisted them with checking on some facts via the internet that allowed them to know that the calls were false.

This scam is gaining in popularity among con artists and is commonly known as the Grandparents Scam.

The callers will usually state that a family member has been in an accident and needs money wired for medical expenses, or a family member is in jail and needs money to avoid being prosecuted.

The callers will often have no information when they call, but the person receiving the call may unknowingly provide information, such as the initial caller stating, "Do you know who this is?" where the person receiving the call may respond, "Matthew?" providing the caller with a name of a family member.

Please be aware of these scams and, if you receive a suspicious telephone call of this nature, feel free to contact the Police Department at (559) 935-1525.