



Crime Prevention Tips



ARAPAHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
13101 East Broncos Parkway, Centennial, CO 80112
David C. Walcher, Sheriff

Committed to quality service with an emphasis on integrity,
professionalism and community spirit.

FRAUD ALERT WHEN YOUR GRANDSON ISN'T YOUR GRANDSON

One of the many scams that frequently targets senior citizens is the call for help from someone posing as a grandchild or distant relative. When the victim, usually elderly, answers the phone the caller typically says, "It's your grandson," (granddaughter, nephew, etc.) or just, "It's me." Sometimes the victim will reply with something like, "Is that you, Steve?" Now the scammer has a name and pretends to be Steve and explains that he has gotten into trouble and needs the victim to wire some money immediately. This fraud is being perpetrated daily around the world, including victims who have been targeted in the Denver metro area.

To protect yourself, the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office recommends:

1. Be suspicious of anyone who calls unexpectedly asking for cash.
2. Never supply a name when someone calls pretending to be a relative or former neighbor or acquaintance. Make the caller tell you who they are.
3. Even if they seem to have all the right information, check the caller's story with other family members before you consider sending money or giving information to the caller.
4. Develop a secret code or "password" with family members that can be used to verify a true emergency.

Recently, the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office received information of this scam occurring in our community. The incident involved an unknown suspect who called the victims and claimed their grandson was involved in an accident in Fulton County Georgia and was charged with a DUI. They were then told they would be contacted by the Legal Aid Society with further information. They were then asked to send bail money to help their grandson. One victim sent the money only to find out that the victim's grandson was never in Georgia and the account was located in the Dominican Republic.

If you receive any similar phone calls, please contact the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office at **303-795-4711**.

For more tips, visit the Better Business Bureau's [Scam Stopper site](#).

**To report a crime, call the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office at
(303)795-4711 or 911 for emergencies.**