



Sheriff Walter L. Davis III

Delaware County Sheriff's Office  
Community Relations

## Sheriff Alert

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Information disseminated is intended to inform citizens of criminal and suspicious activity in and around residential and business areas that affect our community. The information provided is intended to provide a proactive approach to our law enforcement services and enhance the communication between the community and law enforcement officials that serve and protect the citizens of Delaware County. Any questions or concerns, or any information that needs to be disseminated immediately contact the Delaware County Sheriff's Office Community Relations at 740-833-2886.

## Grandparent Scam Being Investigated

The Delaware County Sheriff's Office would like to send a warning to grandparents in central Ohio about a fraud scheme making its way across the country. There is a scam, known as "The Grandparent Scam," which has the scammer posing as a grandchild, making a distressed phone call to an unsuspecting senior citizen, and asking that the grandparent wire money to get them out of trouble.

The Delaware County Sheriff's Office is currently investigating one case where an elderly woman was conned out of thousands of dollars by someone claiming to be her grandson. The caller was scammed into thinking that her grandson was in jail and needed the money for bail. In another example from Powell the victim was contacted by an unknown male on the phone who said her grandson had been involved in a car accident. As a result she sent thousands of dollars overseas.

Other variations of the "grandparent scam" might include the grandchildren claiming they caused a car accident or were arrested for drug possession. Victims have also been contacted by someone claiming to be a police officer or lawyer representing the grandchild in court. More recently the scammers have been calling the unsuspecting grandparents and telling them their grandchild had been injured in a car accident. Someone will then get on the phone sounding like the injured grandchild with a jaw wired shut and ask for money to be wired.

If you have been a victim of a scam: <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/ConsumerComplaint>

### Protect Yourself from the Grandparent Scam:

- If you receive a call from someone claiming to be your grandchild in distress, don't disclose any information before you have confirmed it really is your grandchild
- If a caller says "it's me grandma!" don't respond with a name but instead let the caller explain who he or she is
- One of the ways that these scammers are getting information about their potential victims is by visiting social media websites, such as Facebook or MySpace. Check the security settings on any social media accounts that you may have. Make sure the settings only allow people that you have confirmed as friends to access any personal information
- If you have fallen victim to the scam, report the incident immediately. Contact the Delaware County Sheriff's Office at 740-833-2800