

WHAT IS A GRANDPARENT SCAM?

You receive a phone call, "Hi Grandma/Grandpa! I'm so glad you answered - I'm in trouble!" The con artist picks up clues from things you say to be even more convincing. Maybe they have even done a bit of homework beforehand and gleaned some personal details from social media.

Pretending to be your grandchild, they beg you to send money for medical treatment, bail money, auto repair, a ticket home, etc. Claiming they are embarrassed or there is no time to wait, the con artist dissuades you from contacting anyone. They may even put an accomplice on the phone to act the part of the police or other authorities. This scam depends upon your compassion for your grandchildren outweighing any concern about potential scams.

➡ **Verify the caller's identity.** Ask questions only your grandchild would know. Call their phone number. Call their parents. Verify the story.

➡ **Resist pressure to act quickly or secretly.** The scammer may claim there is no time to speak to others. Why? Because they know if you call anyone, you will discover your grandchild is fine, and it's a scam.

➡ **Refuse to send money** through wire transfer, overnight delivery or any unusual payment form (prepaid cards, gift cards, bitcoin, etc.) Never let someone come to you for payment or send a car to pick you up.

➡ **Report the call.** Initiate call tracing by dialing *57 immediately after you hang up from the fraudulent call. *57 will forward the caller's number to your phone company's call identification center so police can trace the call. Then immediately call your local law enforcement agency to file a complaint.*

**Only use *57 when you believe a call violates the law & are reporting it to law enforcement.*



National Elder Fraud Hotline
1-833-372-8311

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