



Town of Vienna, Virginia Police Department Media Information Release

New Phone Scam Being Used in and Around the Fairfax County Area

Several seniors across Fairfax County have been victimized by a phone scam in recent weeks. Thousands of dollars have been lost by these few individuals and many others have nearly lost money.

The scam begins with a phone call from a "grandchild." The caller tells the senior they have been involved in an accident or arrested for DWI. They plead with the senior to wire money and not tell "mom and dad." They also say the money cannot be sent directly to them because their wallet is in the car which was impounded. Instead, they ask for the money to be sent to a "friend" or "attorney." In some cases, another person posing as the "attorney" calls the senior a few minutes later and supports the claims made by the initial caller.

This technique, known as social engineering, is preying on the fact that most seniors will do anything to help a family member. Steps need to be taken to not fall victim of this attack.

If you get a call from anyone asking for immediate money, you need to:

- * Verify who the caller is by asking personal questions.
- * Be cautious; don't give personal information.
- * Call other family members before sending any money.
- * Call the location where the "family member" is being held or treated.

**For Further Information please contact
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