



Grandchild Scam



Your grandchild is calling and he is in trouble... Or is he?

There has been a recent increase in “Emergency Scams” targeting seniors over the past few months and Halton Regional Police is looking to keep YOU safe.

In a typical emergency scam scenario, an older person receives a phone call from someone claiming to be their grandchild. The caller goes on to say that they are in some kind of trouble (e.g. car accident or in jail) and need money immediately. Some victims may get calls from two people, one pretending to be their loved one and the other a police officer or a lawyer. The caller will ask potential victims a series of leading questions which prompts them to volunteer personal information. Callers say that they don’t want others to find out what has happened. Typically, they will ask for money to be delivered in cash to a “bail bondsman” or an employee of the law firm/court.

Victims often don’t verify the caller’s story until after the money has been given to the fraudster

Tips to Avoid the ‘Grandchild Scam’

1. If you suspect that you are being contacted by a fraudster **call Halton Police at 905-825-4777 or 911 if it is an emergency.**
2. If you are at the bank, do not lie—tell the bank employee why you are retrieving the cash. The employees are trained to assist you in recognizing possible frauds and will help protect your money.
3. Remember: Scammers count on the fact that victims will want to act quickly to help their loved one in an emergency.
4. Caution: Never give money to anyone you don’t know and trust. Verify the person’s identity before you take any steps to help.
5. Think: Don’t give out any personal information to the caller.
6. Investigate: Ask the person questions that only your loved one would be able to answer. Call someone you both know to verify the story. Scammers can learn a lot about you from social media, or while talking to you on the phone.
7. Ask yourself: Does the caller’s story make sense?
8. Important: **Police, lawyers and the court will never ask you to give money to someone at your door.**

For additional information on emergency scams, follow us on Twitter (@HaltonPolice) or visit [haltonpolice.ca](https://www.haltonpolice.ca).

Anyone with information pertaining to a fraud or any other crime is asked to contact the Regional Fraud Bureau Intake Office at 905-465-8741 or Fraud@haltonpolice.ca. Tips can also be submitted anonymously to Crime Stoppers “See something, Hear something, Say something” at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), through the web at www.haltoncrimestoppers.ca.