

# THE GRANDPARENT SCAM

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### WHAT IS IT?

The "Grandparent Scam" is a scam that targets the elderly in an attempt to steal large sums of money through a wire transfer.

Financial losses from this scam are usually several thousand dollars per victim.

### HOW DOES IT HAPPEN?

A grandparent receives a phone call or email from someone who claims to be their grandchild.\* The person states that he/she is traveling in a foreign country, has gotten into a bad situation, and needs money wired ASAP.

*\*Criminal may claim to be a police officer, lawyer, doctor, or other person.*

### WHAT CAN I DO?

**RESIST** the pressure to act quickly.

**CONTACT** your grandchild or another family member to determine whether the call is legitimate.

**NEVER** wire money based on a request made over the phone or in an email, especially overseas.

### IF YOU HAVE BEEN SCAMMED

1. Contact your local law enforcement or state consumer protection agency.
2. File a complaint with Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3):  
<http://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>



### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2012/april/grandparent\\_040212](http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2012/april/grandparent_040212)

<http://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/info-07-2012/scams-target-grandparents.html>

Created by:

The National Center  
on Elder Abuse  
[www.ncea.aoa.gov](http://www.ncea.aoa.gov)

