



Halton Regional Police Service Grandson Scam Tips



Introduction:

The Halton Regional Police Service and other police services frequently investigate fraudulent acts committed against seniors. The focus of this information will be on what is known as the “*Grandson Scam*”.

How It Works:

- The scam occurs over the telephone and targets the elderly.
- The caller identifies himself as the elderly victim’s grandchild, sometimes by name, or sometimes by just saying, “Hi”, or, “It’s me”.
- The caller will wait for the victim to respond with something to the effect of, “Oh John. Is that you?” thereby identifying the grandson for the fraudster.
- It is believed that in the instances

where the caller identifies him/herself by a grandson’s name without prompting, the information was obtained from published sources such as, obituaries, classifieds, and social networking websites.

- The caller usually indicates that he has been involved in a car accident or that he has been arrested and charged with a criminal offence and is thus in urgent need of cash to cover legal fees.
- After the money is sent via a money transfer service, the fraudsters sometimes call back citing any number of reasons for requiring additional money, including, but not limited to, hospital bills and car repairs.
- There may be other variations to this scam.



Tips to Avoid Becoming a “Grandson Scam” Victim:

Police ask that you consider the following:

- Ask the caller for a call back number. This gives you time to verify information. Be very suspicious, if the caller refuses.
- Ask the caller a personal question only your grandchild could answer such as their date of birth.
- Speak to another family member about the matter before sending any money or enquire with police.

Police services continue to investigate these types of incidents. Anyone with related information is asked to contact their own police service or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

For more information, contact:
Halton Regional Police Service
905-825-4747 ext. 5064
www.haltonpolice.ca

Progress Through Participation