

# Memo

**Date:** 3/1/2010  
**From:** Audubon Police Department  
**RE:** Grandparent Scam

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The Borough of Audubon has logged incidents of the "Grandparent Scam" or "Emergency Scam" that is being generated from mainland British Columbia. The facts regarding the scam are as follows,

**Summary-** The scam will prey on the emotions of senior citizens who want to help their grandchildren. A senior will be told that their grandchild has been arrested or involved in a motor vehicle accident in Canada and the grandparent needs to send money to post a bail or pay for vehicle damages. In one of the incidents from Audubon a grandparent was told that the caller was her grandson and that he had been involved in a rental car accident in Canada on his way to the Olympic Game's with a friend. The caller then stated that the Police had done a Breathalyzer test and had charged him with drunken driving. The grandparent who was nervous wanted to know what she could do to help. At that point a second male began to speak and directed the grandmother to get a Wal-Mart Money Gram and forward the money to an address that was given. The caller stated that he would call back at a certain time so that he could obtain the tracking number on the Money Gram. The scammer wanted the grandparent to know that the Canadian Courts would be closing at a certain time and it was imperative that the Money Gram be sent quickly. When the scammer called back the female was coached to ask certain questions and the Audubon Police Detective Bureau electronically taped the caller. A warrant was obtained from the Camden County Prosecutors Office to record the conversation. The female was told not to answer any blocked calls after the recording was obtained and the calls immediately stopped.

It is believed that the scammers are obtaining family information over the Internet and calling the grandparents by name during the first phone call. It is suggested by the Audubon Police Department that the grandparent attempt to verify the whereabouts of the particular grandchild in question. Contact the Audubon Police Department immediately via 911 and attempt to get as much information from the caller as possible.