



City of Hartford

HARTFORD POLICE DEPT.
110 NORTH JOHNSON STREET
HARTFORD, WI 53027
(262) 673-8273
FAX (262) 673-8302

DAVID A. GROVES
CHIEF OF POLICE

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*****Canadian Bail Money Scam*****

A number of Wisconsin law enforcement agencies have been investigating telephone fraud scams currently targeting the elderly. The scam operates as follows:

An unknown male suspect telephone's an elderly victim and states, "**Gramps**" or "**Grandma**", **I need help**". "**I got into some trouble (or an auto accident) in Canada.**" "**I need bail money**". The victims usually reply, "**Is this (name of grandchild the caller's voice resembles)**". The caller responds, "**Yes, this is (name victim provided)**".

The suspect caller then requests the elderly victim wire transfer him money so he can get bailed out of jail. The suspect caller asks the elderly victim to keep this a "secret" because he is so embarrassed. The suspect caller is usually very emotional when speaking with the elderly victims. The victims are told to wire the "bail money" via MoneyGram to Canada (Vancouver, Toronto & Montreal). Dollar amounts being wired to Canada are usually in \$5,000.00 increments.

On some occasions, the suspect will re-contact the elderly victim advising him/her that he received the "bail money" but now needs additional monies wired for release of his passport. In some instances, the victim's caller ID feature has captured the suspect caller's telephone number. Those numbers are being investigated but many appear to be originating from pre-paid wireless telephones. Investigations are continuing.

The purpose of this notice is to alert the elderly citizenry of this particular devious scam.

Any Hartford Resident receiving a phone call of this type should contact the Hartford Police Department at (262)673-2600.