



Family-In-Need Scam (11/2009) – Scammers call or e-mail claiming a family member or close friend is in trouble (e.g., car wreck, arrested, lost passport). Scammers rely on family relationships, dramatic circumstances, and emotional ploys to convince you the situation is real. Scammers claim to need immediate financial assistance to solve the problem. Scammers request that you immediately withdraw cash and send a money order. Scammers instruct you not to tell anyone (claiming embarrassment) and to send the money without requiring identification or verification to receive the funds (claiming easier and quicker access to the funds).

Help protect yourself against becoming the next victim:

- Before you do anything, immediately contact a relative, close friend, or other trusted individual to independently confirm the facts and the circumstances for yourself.
- Contact local law enforcement to report and/or verify the situation.
- File a report with the Federal Trade Commission.
By telephone: 1-877-382-4357
Online: www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov