



Person-In-Need Scam – 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).

This scam is most often perpetrated on grandparents. The scammers call their victim claiming to be a grandchild who is in an emergency situation and in dire need of money. While it may seem easy enough to ask questions and seek details to confirm the identity and situation, social networking sites such as Facebook.com and Ancestry.com make it easy for scammers to access such information and deceive the victim.

Help protect against becoming a 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.
- Beware of calls from any foreign country as many of the recent attempts have come from overseas.

Who to Contact:

- Contact local law enforcement to report and/or verify the situation.
- Contact the Florida Attorney General or your State's Attorney General
Florida Attorney General
By telephone: (850) 414-3990
Online: www.myfloridalegal.com
- File a report with the Federal Trade Commission.
By telephone: 1-877-382-4357
Online: www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov