

# Sheriff



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## **"RELATIVE NEEDS MONEY" SCAM RESURFACES**

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is receiving reports that a scam that made the rounds in the region last year has resurfaced. In this scam, you get a phone call from someone claiming to be a relative in distress or the friend of a relative in distress.

Grandparents are common targets. For instance, the caller will sometimes claim to be the friend of a grandson who has been arrested and needs money to make bond, or a family member whose wallet was stolen and is now stranded without cash.

Well-meaning people trying to help out someone in need have been victimized by these type pleas. If you're unsure whether the call is legitimate, try to get as much detailed information as possible that only the relative would know, (not just basic family information). Also, verify the distress story through another trustworthy source that you can contact.

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