

FRAUD ALERT!

**From the Office of Okaloosa County
Sheriff Larry Ashley**

Your Grandson Needs Help Scam is Back, Again

This is a scam that will not go away. The Sheriff's Office is getting reports that this scam is back, again. We have seen this scam or a version of this scam a number of times over the past few years. Below is how the scam works:

Think you recognize that voice at the other end of the line? Well, it might not be who you think it is. That's what a couple of Okaloosa County residents recently learned when they received calls from a young person claiming to be their grandson.

The call went like this:

Young Male Caller: "Grandpa, this is your oldest grandson."

Mr. Jones: "Edward?"

Caller: "Yes, grandpa, I need some help."

The call went on from there to ask for \$3,000.

The Sheriff's Office has received information of other versions of this scam. Such as callers claiming to be a "family member" who needs bond money, has had their wallet stolen, has gotten in trouble, or was in an accident. Remember to never give out information until you have confirmed who you are talking to; this may mean you need to make a phone call confirming what you are being told.

Thankfully no money was lost in the latest reports. However, the caller was able to easily obtain their grandchildren's names and engage them in a conversation. The seniors were lucky; they were unable to send any money and they felt bad until they learned it was a scam.

Please continue to help the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office by warning individuals about the frauds and scams out there: by holding seminars and posting Fraud Alerts on bulletin boards, websites and in newsletters. It is because of these outlets individuals are thinking twice before falling for the lines of the con-artists.

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**For assistance call the Okaloosa County
Sheriff's Office Fraud Line:
850-651-7674**