

FRAUD ALERT!

**From the Office of San Joaquin County District Attorney
James P. Willett**

ARE YOU REALLY MY GRANDCHILD?

The past few months we have seen a dramatic increase in what has been referred to as the "Emergency Scam" or the "Grandparent Scam."

Seniors – for the most part – are contacted, usually late at night, via telephone. Typically the scammer starts the conversation by saying in a panicked tone of voice, "Grandma(pa), it's me." The scammer waits for the victim to give the name of a grandchild. (i.e. "Joshua, is that you?") The scammer pretends to be the person the "grandparent" identifies and proceeds to claim they need money for an emergency situation. Reasons range from bail money, emergency medical care, car trouble or accident. The scammer desperately claims that he or she needs the money wired immediately, and begs their "grandparent" not to contact other relatives because he or she doesn't want to "get in trouble." The victim is told to send the money via electronic transfer. Once the money is sent, there is almost no chance of getting it back.

Ways to Protect Yourself

- Resist the pressure to "act now." Don't panic.
- Ask the caller to verify their identity – questions such as the name of their grade school, a pet's name, or the name of another relative. Hang up when the caller answers incorrectly.
- Be aware that this scam is happening. Warn others about it.

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**For assistance call the
DA's Elder Fraud Line:
(209)468-2488**

*CASE is a Partnership of the District Attorney and the
Community to Prevent Elder Financial Exploitation*