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News Release

For Immediate Release

Prison Scam Targets the Elderly

Recently, the Springfield Police Department has seen a rise in a common scam that has been used in the past where the elderly are specifically targeted. The caller will say that they have been incarcerated for some reason or that a family member known to them is in jail and request money in order to get out of jail. The caller usually asks for the money to be sent via Western Union and that it's a matter of urgency. Typically the address is located somewhere in a foreign country where they're incarcerated and the call shows as "private" when viewed on the cell phone.

The SPD would like to remind citizens to completely investigate calls of this nature before agreeing to send any money. If a citizen is contacted, immediately re-contact the individual who the caller claims to be. In nearly every case, the "victim" is at home and is fine.

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