



# Douglas Police Department

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## PRESS RELEASE

The Douglas Police Department would like to warn residents of several scams that have recently targeted the community. These scams are not new, but based on their sporadic nature and the way they target people they can be easily misinterpreted. The first is known as the grandparents scam. Based on the callers anticipated generosity of the victim, the grandparents are exploited by someone posing as their grandchild. Once contact is made the victim is informed of some type of emergency where their financial assistance is immediately needed. This could be in the form of medical costs, hotel fee's and most commonly an arrest and or the need for bail and attorney fees. If you are confronted with this situation please make every attempt to confirm your grandchild's or other family member's whereabouts. If you have any question as to the authenticity of a situation, please use caution before you begin to send money to help this person.

In addition to this please always use caution when cashing checks from a third party. If you receive a check in the mail from a company or individual whom you do not know, please be sure they are legitimate. Any person or business that requires you to cash a check, and then forward a portion of the payment should raise concern. A good indicator is multiple contact points and any address from a foreign country. Your first instinct or gut feeling is your best defense against scammers. If it doesn't seem right it probably is not legitimate.

APPROVAL: \_\_\_\_\_

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