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Chautauqua County authorities warn of phone scam

MAYVILLE, N.Y. -- Police are warning the public of a bail scam reported in Chautauqua County.

The scam targets parents or grandparents, who receive a phone call from someone claiming to be their child or grandchild, according to the Chautauqua County Sheriff's Office.

Police said the connection is poor or there is significant background noise.

The scam artist claims to be in police custody, usually in Canada or another state.

After a brief plea, another scam artist claiming to be a police officer, lawyer or bail bondsman will explain procedures for sending a money order or bank check to release the child or grandchild.

The same scam was reported by authorities in Erie County within the last month.