



Police warn local seniors about phone scam

By [KAREN JONAS, staff writer](#)

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BARSTOW • Police are warning local senior citizens to be wary after someone tried to scam an elderly woman Thursday afternoon by posing as her grandson over the phone and asking her to wire money.

Barstow Police Lt. Albert Ramirez said the victim received a call from a man who called himself her grandson Thursday afternoon.

The man told her that he had been arrested and didn't have enough money to pay to get out of jail, said Ramirez. If he didn't have money wired to him, he wouldn't be able to get out of jail and would be subject to further charges.

Then another person got on the phone and posed as a police officer, asking that the woman wire over a certain amount of money, said Ramirez. The man posing as a police officer then told the woman not to contact local authorities.

Ramirez said the "send me money" ploy is a common one used on the elderly, who are often willing to help relatives any way they can.

Ramirez also told seniors to be wary of people calling as victims of car accidents who ask people to wire money in order to settle out of court and avoid further charges.

"These things come in waves," said Ramirez, who warned that it was likely that more elderly people could be victimized soon.

Ramirez said elderly people who receive phone calls from relatives in distress should try to find out where the person is calling from — such as an out-of-state police station or bail bondsmen. They should then use a phone directory to locate the actual police department and call them directly. He also said people should look out for certain phrases such as "Don't tell anyone," and "Keep it between us."

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