



News Release Division of Police

City of Mansfield, Ohio



Dino Sgambellone, Chief of Police

For Immediate Release

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Date: February 22nd 2011

Contact:

Subject: On going frauds via telephone or internet chat rooms:

The police department has had several frauds reported over the past several weeks. The following information may vary to some degree, but the end result would be the same.

A call is made, usually to a senior citizen. The caller states that their grandson or granddaughter is in Madrid Spain, and was in a rental car accident, and needs \$3500.00 to pay for the car. They will not be allowed to leave the country until the fee is paid. They request that the money be sent via Western Union in the grandson or granddaughter's name. The person will tell the victim of the fraud to hurry, because they are going to miss their return flight to the United States, as the plane leaves in 4 hours. Anyone getting a call of this nature please call the police, and do not western union the money!

Another fraud involves conversations over the internet with male to female, or female to male contacts. Once a sense of trust is established, (more than one exchange of conversations) the conversation will turn sexual in nature. You will get a call from a "detective", who works for a known police department, and the caller will use a name that may well be a police officer in your area. The "detective" will tell you that you have been talking to a juvenile under the age of 13 in a sexual manner, and that is a violation of law. In an effort to keep your name out of the investigation, you will be told to send an amount of money via western union, to a place usually a post office box number, to help defray the cost of the sex investigation. The caller will be sympathetic to the situation, agreeing that you had no idea the person you have been talking to in a sexual manner was a male or female under the age of 13. He will tell you, once you send the money, he will remove your name from the list of "suspects", and destroy all the tape recording of the conversations.

Anyone getting a call similar to this scenario, please report the call to the police.