



CITY OF EDMONDS

250 5TH AVENUE NORTH • EDMONDS • WA 98020 • (425)771-0200 • FAX (425)771-0208

POLICE DEPARTMENT • AN ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

DAVE EARLING

MAYOR

MEDIA RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NEWS RELEASE #1**

**Edmonds Police Department
Contact: Sergeant Josh McClure
Phone: (425) 275-4615**

Date: July 23, 2015

Elderly being targeted with phone scam about relative in jail

Edmonds Police are continuing to investigate reports of residents who have received calls from individuals claiming to be relatives who have been arrested. Another tactic is for someone to call and say that they have a relative held in jail and demand bail money from the victim. The caller will either ask for money to be wired to an account or connect them with a "bail bondsman" who will either give instructions for a wire transfer or direct them to a bank where money should be deposited into a specific account. So far today, police have investigated two incidents where nearly \$5000 has been scammed from the victims. In both cases the victims were elderly and were contacted by someone claiming to be a grandchild. One victim was directed to Bank of America to deposit funds into an account while the other was directed to use Western Union.

Police remind you to never give any personal information over the phone and to never provide money, in any form, to anyone who cannot be verified. If in doubt, hang up and contact other relatives know to the alleged caller. If that is not an option, do not hesitate to call 911 so an officer can contact you to provide assistance. The scammers will be very persistent and demand that you not disconnect. Trust your instinct if you feel something is wrong.

If you feel you have already been a victim of this scam, call 911. You should then call your bank to try to stop any transaction from going through.

Date: July 23, 2015

Prepared by: Sergeant Josh McClure

Phone & email: 425-275-4615 / josh.mcclure@edmondswa.gov

Distribution: Mayor Chief Assistant Chiefs Professional Stds. Sgt.

Det. Sgt. Patrol Sgt. Exec. Assistant Police Svc. Asst.

*Incorporated August 11, 1890
Sister City - Hekinan, Japan*