



Walter R. Wilson
Sheriff

Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office

2295 REISER AVE, S.E.
NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO 44663
PHONE (330) 339-2000

Press Release

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The Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office again wants to remind citizens to be aware of the various financial scams attempted or committed every day here in the County.

The Sheriff's Office receives calls on a daily basis from citizens who have been contacted by thieves attempting to scam them out of their money in various ways.

One common scam that has continued to gain popularity is what Sheriff's Deputies call the "grandparent scam". With this scam, a grandparent is usually contacted by an individual claiming to be their grandson or granddaughter and asked for money to be immediately wired to them due to some emergency. The grandchild usually claims to be on vacation (commonly in South America or Canada) and need immediate money for anything from car repairs to Bail to get out of a local jail. The scammer often sounds convincing because they will know personal information about the family and the grandparent. Investigators believe that often this information is gained by scammers from publicly viewable social networking sites. Many people have fallen for this scam in our area and we learn daily of more attempts on residents.

Another scam that has been very successful lately is email solicitations for investments into what appears to be legitimate companies. One Tuscarawas County Couple recently reported losing over \$100,000.00 into an investment scam where they thought they were investing in IBM computers. These scams are extremely difficult to investigate as the money typically goes over seas to accounts that were set up fraudulantly by individuals that do not really exist, but yet by someone who has created a false identity from stolen personal information.

The public must be aware that these thieves are sophisticated. They are often knowledgeable about their topic and very convincing. The public must remain vigilant and remember that these scammers practice their acting all day long when making contact with individuals and have perfected their methods. We ask citizens to make all investments through a reputal investment brokers and to be very suspicious of any calls or e-mails that they receive. One of the most difficult realizations to discuss with victims is that most often, their hard earned money is not able to be located or recovered.

Captain Orvis L. Campbell