



Sheriff
Dan Altena
Sioux County Sheriff's Office
4363 Ironwood Ave., Ste. 1
Orange City, IA 51041

PRESS RELEASE

**** SCAM ALERT ****

Sioux County Sheriff, Dan Altena wants the public to be aware of a unique scam to hit the area.

A caller contacted an elderly couple claiming to be their grandchild; the caller used the correct name of the grandchild. The caller said he was in jail in Canada for hitting a pole near a police station and couldn't be released unless he received \$4,200. He told the elderly couple not to tell his Dad and to use Wal-Mart to send the money to him. The caller agreed to call the couple back several hours later after they had the money available.

The caller did call back several hours later; fortunately the elderly couple had another family member there to ask a couple basic questions. The caller immediately hung up.

Several other people in the area have received the same type of call.

Sheriff Altena emphasizes that scammers will use any and all methods of deceit. With the economy getting worse there may be more scams than usual. Altena emphasizes the importance of "thoroughly" checking out all calls, letters, emails, or other notices that ask for money, social security numbers, bank or credit account numbers, or any other identifying information.

"Don't give anything out unless you know it is legitimate."