

Common Scams

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At a recent seminar titled "Scams Targeting Seniors", a very useful presentation was given by Sgt. Barry Heffernan of London Police. Below is a summary of common scams currently operating in the London area:

Emergency / Grandparent Scam

In this scam, a call or email is received, apparently from a relative who is in trouble and needs cash urgently to secure release from custody.

A second call may come from a "Police officer" or "Lawyer" putting additional pressure to send cash.

- The scam works by putting the victim under pressure and making them panic.
- **Do not send cash**
- Take time to contact the relative on a number you know they use.
- Slow down, take time and check the facts independently.
- If you receive more than one call, log the date, time and content of the call so that you can report it to Police.

Lottery Scam

Usually a call or email to notify you that you have won a huge cash prize and simply need to pay the "taxes" to claim the prize.

The facts:

1. You cannot win a lottery prize in a contest that you did not enter.
2. You cannot be chosen as a random winner if you don't have any entry.
3. You will not have to pay any fees or taxes to claim a legitimate prize in Canada.

Do not provide ANY personal information.

Service Scam

Caller pretends to be from Microsoft, etc. telling you that you have a security issue or virus on your computer.

NEVER give any caller remote access to your computer.

If you think there is a problem with your computer, take it to a reputable dealer / repair shop.