

## Canada Grandchild Scam:

**STATEWIDE:** We are once again having a problem with what could be called the 'GRANDCHILD SCAM' where an elderly person receives a call from his or her 'grandchild' saying they have been in an accident with a rental car in Canada. The caller states he or she has been arrested (usually for having picked up hitchhikers who had drugs on them or were wanted) and needs \$3000 to \$6000 sent to him to pay for getting out of jail and car repairs. The suspect requests the money be transferred via moneygram from a Wal-mart to Canada. Many elderly people have poor hearing and are unable to identify their grandchildren's voices...they also have the tendency to be trusting and believe the caller. Often the 'grandchild' is crying and begs the grandparent not to tell his parents. There was one incident in Central Maine last week where the victim sent his entire life savings to 'bail his grandson out'. Nashua (NH) PD reports they also had a recent incident where the victim sent \$6000 after a subject identifying himself as from the 'Hudson Quebec Holding Facility in Canada' took the phone and corroborated the fake grandchild's story.

The scammers are most likely using a search engine such as [www.anywho.com](http://www.anywho.com) or [www.zabasearch.com](http://www.zabasearch.com) to find their targets. These websites give information on US citizens, including name, address, age & telephone numbers. For a small charge they also provide information on relatives. This is a common scam that has been highlighted in the past; however it appears to be making another comeback. The telephone numbers in most of these incidents have been traced back to Canada; however once there, it's a dead end with false names and untraceable prepaid cellphones. The chance of the elderly victim recouping his or her money is negligible.