

The Senior Medicare Patrol is.....

LOOKING OUT FOR YOU

DATE: 9/13/15

2015-9

SUBJECT: BEWARE OF GRANDPARENT SCAMS

ATTENTION, Loving Grandparents, this alert is addressed specifically to you as well as wishing you, "Happy Grandparents Day!"

Beware, Kupuna! We are potential victims of medical, consumer, and identity fraud everyday. We are easy to reach, responsive, and emotionally involved. That makes us a target for Grandparent Scams.

Grandparent Scams work like this:

- Grandchild in distress: "Grandma, I'm backpacking in Turkey, got hurt and need money to pay for medical expenses. Please wire me a money order of \$2,000 to this P.O. Box address . . . And please don't contact my parents . . ."
- Grandchild in trouble with the law: "Hello, your grandson has been arrested for DUI and causing an accident. Send bail money of \$5,000 immediately to his attorney at this foreign address . . ."

Everyday, 1 out of 5 kupuna responds to calls, emails, letters, or personal contacts from crooks trying to GET YOUR MONEY. Beware of desperate pleas for money that ask you to keep the situation secret from family and send money by wire transfer to a P.O. Box or foreign address.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

PROTECT yourself: End the contact. Hang up. Delete the email. Alert your family.

DETECT a scam: Know the signs of a Grandparent Scam. Is the plea desperate? Are you told to keep the situation a secret? Is it really your grandchild? Are you asked to send money by wire transfer to a P.O. Box or foreign address?

REPORT the scam: Call the Hawaii Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP Hawaii) at 1-800-296-9422 for help with reporting Grandparent Scams to authorities. SMP fights Grandparent Scams like we fight health care fraud: We educate seniors to prevent, detect, and report scams.



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