



# Lower Providence Township

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Telephone Scam Prompts Fraud Alert

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP** (September 23, 2009) – The Lower Providence Township Police Department is alerting residents to be aware of telephone scams following an incident involving a resident at the Shannondell at Valley Forge retirement community.

The resident reported to the Lower Providence Township Police Department that on Sunday, September 13, 2009, she received a telephone call from a subject identifying himself as her grandson. The caller indicated that he had been arrested in Canada and needed several thousand dollars for bail. He asked that she not contact his parents because they were not aware that he was out of the country. A second subject then came onto the phone and identified himself as a law enforcement officer. He indicated that two separate payments would need to be sent to specific locations by Western Union or MoneyGram.

The following day, September 14, 2009, the resident went to two local stores and wired the amount requested to the names and locations provided by the caller. The resident then called a phone number provided by the police imposter and provided the confirmation numbers for the wire transfers. The imposter indicated that her grandson would be released and that all of the money that she had transferred would be returned to her if her grandson appeared for court.

On September 15, 2009, the resident was again contacted by the police imposter advising her that there was a complication and that she needed to wire an additional amount to a location that was provided to her. The resident went to a local store and completed the wire transfer. When she called the telephone number given to her by the imposter to provide the confirmation number, she requested to speak with her grandson and was told that he was not available. At this point, the resident became suspicious, confirmed with her family that her grandson was safe, and notified the Lower Providence Township Police Department. Two of the wire transfers were successfully stopped. However, the third transfer was completed and was picked up in England on September 15, 2009. The investigation into the matter is continuing.

The Lower Providence Township Police Department reminds residents to be aware of such scams and to not accept this type of fraudulent activity by either telephone or mail. Should you suspect you are being scammed or have received similar type phone calls, please contact the Lower Providence Township Police Department at 610-539-5900.

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