



SHEBOYGAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

Increase Use of Telephone Scam seen in Sheboygan

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

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CASE NO.

Within the last month, the Sheboygan Police Department has seen an increase in a telephone scam that targets residents by asking for assistance with a family member who has been detained in a foreign country.

The telephone scam starts by a bogus caller contacting a citizen via phone and identifying themselves as a member of a U.S. embassy, foreign police department, or bail bondsmen. The bogus caller states they are conducting official business and attempting to assist a person who has identified the citizen as a family member. The bogus caller will relate a story of how the family member was arrested or involved in an incident that requires money be wired in order to alleviate the situation. The bogus caller may use a name that is an actual family member or sounds very familiar and will express the urgency of the situation. The bogus caller will typically provide believable credentials, such as, a return phone number, a badge number, department name, etc. The bogus caller may also utilize an additional person on the phone who sounds young in order to convince the citizen that the situation is real.

The Sheboygan Police Department is asking that people who receive these types of calls be cautious in sending monies to an unknown location without gathering all the facts.

The Sheboygan Police Department recommends the following:

- 1. Acquire as much information about the situation during the call.**
- 2. Ask specific questions of the caller; name, telephone number, address, specific position, where the purported family member is being held, phone number for that location, and advise that their agencies legitimacy will need to be confirmed through our local police department.**

A legitimate government agency will comply with all requests and the information should be immediately forthcoming.

If a family member is placed on the phone, ask specific questions that only that family member would know the answer. After discontinuing the call, attempt contact with the person who is apparently deemed in custody. You will typically find that they are not in the described situation and safe. The attempted contact with your family member may take several efforts but be persistent.

If you receive a call back during your personal investigation, advise you have contacted the local police department about this matter.

If you are involved in this phone scam or find something suspicious, contact your local police department for assistance prior to sending money to an unknown location.
