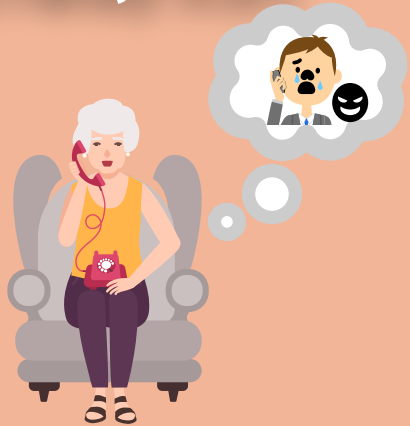


SCAM ALERT:

Friends and Family Scam



Arizona Attorney General
Mark Brnovich



Scam at a glance:

A scammer contacts you posing as a friend or family member in trouble. They request that you send money right away to resolve an issue, and they ask you to keep it a secret from other family members.

Scammers prey on the kindness and generosity you have for your friends and family in order to steal your hard-earned money.

Warning Signs:

- Being contacted out of the blue by someone claiming to be a family member or friend, asking for money due to an emergency, most commonly an arrest, accident, or medical bill.
- Contact is done by phone, email, mail, or social media.
- The scammer may contact you at odd hours.
- You are asked to send money immediately.
- The scammer tells you not to tell anyone about the situation.

Protect Yourself:

- Resist the urge to act immediately.
- Ask as many questions as possible to verify the person contacting you is who they claim to be. Birthday's, addresses, and ages are easy for scammers to lookup. Travel itineraries are also easy to lookup if it is posted on social media.
- Try to contact another family member of the person the caller is claiming to be, or anyone who would know of the real family member's or friend's whereabouts.
- Call or text your friend or family member directly. The easiest way to verify someone's identity may be via their cell phone.
- Never send money if you are even slightly skeptical about where it may be going.



Resources:

Arizona Attorney General's Office

www.azag.gov/complaints/consumer

Phoenix: (602) 542 - 5763, Tucson: (520) 628 - 6648
or Toll-free: (800) 352 - 8431

Task Force Against Senior Abuse Helpline

(602) 542 - 2124 or (844) 894 - 4735

Federal Trade Commission

www.ftc.gov or (877) 382 - 4357

www.azag.gov/seniors/scamalert