



EASTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
"With Pride We Serve"

PRESS RELEASE

February 2, 2011

Scam Alert

Over the past week Easton Police have received complaints regarding fraudulent requests for money from other countries. Two victims, from Easton, have accrued a combined loss of approximately \$5,000.00.

During these complaints the origin of the requests came from Panama and Peru. Suspects requested money to be sent by Western Union to a location where the suspect claimed a family member has damaged property from a car accident. The suspect would act as if they are the family member in trouble and would ask for the money to be sent to help them. Suspects acting out on the fraudulent request would call by telephones using a restricted or fictitious number. The elderly and those most prone to memory loss are the most targeted victims.

There are many scams involving electronic transfers for funds. Examples include:

- Requests to share bank account information so the suspect can “borrow” and temporarily deposit their own money.
- Notices that a victim has won a sweepstakes and/or lottery, requiring the victim to first pay a specific amount of money for related taxes.
- Notices of a victim being named as a recipient in a trust, requiring the victim to provide personal bank account information.

These types of offenses are very difficult to solve and it is rare for victims to recover their financial losses.

Police strongly advise that you should never send money without first confirming the circumstances. Never make these decisions alone-consult with trusted family members to help verify odd requests. Family members should be vigilant with all requests for money especially if you have older members that fit the targeted group of victims. Family and friends should discuss these types of scams to help prevent becoming victims themselves.

Prepared by: Lt. Gregory S. Wright