

District Attorney Marc Bennett  
18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Kansas



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**WICHITA, KAN.** – Three versions of the grandparent scam have recently been reported to the District Attorneys Consumer Protection Division.

1. A 68 year old man received a call from someone who said he was his grandson and was in a cab in Cancun, Mexico. The “grandson” told the Sedgwick County resident his cab driver was arrested for drugs and he, the “grandson” was being arrested too. The caller said he needed money to get out of jail. The 68 year old man hung up on the caller. A few minutes later, someone who said he was an “ambassador” called saying the consumer’s grandson needed help to get out of jail in Cancun. The local resident told the caller he has no grandchildren and hung up again. The call came from 760-705-8888. The Consumer Protection Division found there are 167 pages of online complaints on one site alone about the phone number which originated in California.
2. “Matthew” called a woman in Wichita and said he was her grandson. He said he had been in an auto accident in Oklahoma City and was arrested. When the woman asked “Matthew” where his wife Crystal was, the caller said she was in the hallway of the county jail, speaking to an attorney. The elderly woman later received a second call from a person who said he was the attorney, Jason Garcia, and that she should call 405-272-7217 in Oklahoma City. But the woman called Matthew’s parents who said their son was with them, and Crystal was at work. The consumer later told the Consumer Protection Division she does have a grandson by the name of Mathew and his wife’s name is Crystal. But the caller used the wrong last name of Evans. The number came from a land line in Shawnee, Oklahoma.
3. A Kansas City man called the Consumer Protection Division on behalf of his 74 year old father in Wichita and said his father had called him to find his grandson. A caller told the older man his grandson had been arrested in the Dominican Republic after his taxi driver was arrested for having drugs. The grandson needed \$1900 to get out of jail. A second person, “Jill Stone from the American Embassy,” got on the line and informed the grandfather he should purchase a MoneyGram from Wal-Mart for \$1900 and then call 855-839-7155. The Kansas City resident told his father his grandson was home. 855-839-7155 is a VoIP (voice over internet provider) number. VoIP calls can be made on the internet using a service provider and a standard computer audio system.

The Consumer Protection Division reminds consumers to not give out personal financial information unless they have initiated the contact. To check the legitimacy of a phone request, call the District Attorney's Consumer Protection Division at 316-660-3653.

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