



PROTECTING THE ELDERLY AGAINST PHONE SCAMS

CRIME PREVENTION: MEDINA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Phone scams are a growing problem, and they can be especially devastating to the elderly.

- Types of phone scams targeting the elderly:
 - Grandparent scams: Scammers call and pretend to be the victim's grandchild, saying they are in trouble and need money.
 - Tech support scams: Scammers call and say that the victim's computer has a virus or other problem, and they need to pay for tech support to fix it.
 - Government imposter scams: Scammers call and say that the victim owes money to the government, and they need to pay immediately. Remember, police officers will never contact individuals for monetary payments.
- How to protect the elderly from phone scams:
 - Teach them to never give out personal information over the phone, including their Social Security number, bank account number, or credit card number.
 - Advise them to never wire money to someone they don't know.
 - Encourage them to hang up on any call that makes them feel uncomfortable.
 - Let them know they can always call Medina Police with any questions on suspicious or confusing calls.
 - Remind them that legitimate businesses will never demand payment in gift cards or Western Union money transfers.
- There are several resources available to help the elderly protect themselves from phone scams. These include:
 - The National Elder Fraud Hotline: The National Elder Fraud Hotline can be reached at 1-800-694-7229.
 - The Federal Trade Commission (FTC): The FTC has a website with information on how to protect yourself from phone scams.
 - The Social Security Administration (SSA): The SSA has a website with information on how to protect yourself from government imposter scams.

Through education we can help raise awareness of the problem of phone scams and help protect the elderly from them.

Medina Police Department: For emergencies, call 911 – Office (425) 233-6420