

# CHRISTIANSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

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**\*\*\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE\*\*\*\*\***

## Christiansburg Police Department Asks Community to Be Vigilant of Scams

**Date: January 23, 2014**

(Christiansburg, Virginia) - The Christiansburg Police Department is warning the community to be aware of scams that appear to specifically target the elderly population.

In one scam, a person will call a potential victim and pretend to be a family member or loved one. The caller claims to be in a foreign country and/or in some type of trouble, such as they were in a car crash or on the verge of being arrested. The caller claims to need money wired to them immediately in order to avoid more trouble.

Another scam involves someone contacting a potential victim with news that they have won a large sum of money or a prize. To collect this prize, the potential victim is asked to send associated taxes or fees to someone via services such as Western Union or MoneyGram. In some instances, the caller will ask to be sent a green dot card, which is a type of debit card.

If a scammer successfully obtains money, they may even call back a second or third time with new reasons for needing additional funds wired to them.

Due to the money being wired out of the country, it is nearly impossible for the police to track the funds and identify the scam artists.

If you receive a call of this nature and are unsure about its legitimacy, please contact the police department immediately at (540) 382-3131.

The best way to avoid becoming a victim is to be suspect of any calls of this nature, do not send any money, and call the police department.

Residents with elderly parents or neighbors are also encouraged to talk to them about this scam.

As always, citizens are reminded to be vigilant at home, when contacted via the phone, and when using email and/or the internet.

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Contact:

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