



Family Emergency

Scammers may pose as relatives or friends, calling or sending messages to urge you to wire money immediately. They'll say they need cash to help with an emergency — like getting out of jail, paying a hospital bill, or needing to leave a foreign country. Their goal is to trick you into sending money before you realize it's a scam.

Verify the Emergency

If someone calls or sends a message claiming to be a family member or a friend desperate for money:

- Resist the urge to act immediately
- Verify the person's identity by asking questions that a stranger couldn't possibly answer.
- Call a phone number for your family member or friend that you know to be genuine.
- Check the story out with someone else in your family or circle of friends, even if you've been told to keep it a secret.
- Don't wire money or send a check or money order by overnight delivery or courier.

Scammer Tricks

Scammers use a range of tricks to get what they want from you. Read over the list below.

- Impersonating loved ones
- Play on your emotions
- Swear you to secrecy
- Insist that you send money right away.

It is hard to not want to act quickly when you believe a family member needs help. As in any situation, remain calm and check to see if what you're being told is actually happening.