



*City of Grinnell*  
...Jewel of the Prairie

*Police Department  
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May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021- Grinnell, Iowa

**MEDIA RELEASE: (Grandchild in jail scam victimizes Grinnell man of \$10K) Case # 20210379**

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021, an 80-year-old Grinnell man was victimized after receiving a phone scam call from someone claiming to be his grandson, who lived in another state. The person claiming to be his grandson stated he was in jail for a serious offense and needed \$10,000 cash bond to get out of jail. The scammers even pretended to transfer the call to a Public Defender's office, in which another party, claiming to be a Public Defender, convincingly related the importance and urgency of the situation. The scammer advised the victim to withdrawal the cash and he would contact a bail bondman to send a certified courier to his home to pick it up. The victim believing this story to be true went to his bank and withdrew the money. On May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 a male suspect, claiming to be a courier, arrived at the victim's home in Grinnell and was able to get away with the money.

Grinnell police are actively investigating this matter and are looking for a blue in color 2020 Toyota Yaris, bearing Iowa plate# **JCB798**, driven by an adult male of Hispanic or Indian descent, in his late 30's, 5'7", skinny in build.

**Protect yourself from scams of this nature.** Anytime you receive a request for anything, whether it's money or personal information, be skeptical, hang up and call a family member or the police. It can be a phone call, email, or text message. Scammers are good at what they do, and as soon as they have a hook in you, they will attack and exploit it. The Federal Trade Commission suggests the following:

- Resists the urge to act immediately, no matter how dramatic the story is.
- Verify the person's identity by asking questions that a stranger couldn't possibly answer.
- Call a phone number of 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.
- Call the police immediately, report the fraud at [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint) or 1-877-FTC-HELP.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. McClelland  
Chief of Police

***A criminal charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.***