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MEDIA RELEASE: (Grandchild scam victimizes Second Grinnell Resident of \$10K) Case # 20210407

On May 26th, 2021, a 79-year-old Grinnell woman was victimized after receiving a phone scam call from someone claiming to be her granddaughter. The person claiming to be her granddaughter stated she was in jail for a serious offense and was having an attorney friend help her out. The victim later received a call from someone claiming to be the granddaughters' attorney and told the victim that her granddaughter needed \$10,500 for bond money to get out of jail. The scammer even provided a false case number. The scammer advised the victim that they would arrange for a courier to come to her home to pick up the cash "bond" payment. On the evening of May 26th, 2021, a female driver arrived at the victim's house and took possession of a package containing the cash. The driver drove the package to Des Moines and handed it off to another individual. Grinnell Police, in coordination with Des Moines Police, were able to determine that the driver was a hired Uber driver and was unaware of the nature of her trip.

This is the second phone scam incident of this nature to occur in the Grinnell area in the past week. (Case# 20210379), see prior press release for details.

Grinnell police are actively investigating this matter, anyone having information that could assist with this investigation, or that may have been a possible victim themselves, please contact the Grinnell Police Department at **641-236-2670**.

Please take a few minutes and have a conversation with your senior relatives or friends about these types of phone scams. The best way to stop these from occurring is by spreading information and awareness.

Respectfully submitted,

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