



FORT BRAGG POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

Releasing Officer: Sergeant Jonathan A. McLaughlin
Date/Time of Incident: May 22, 2019
Location of Incident: Fort Bragg Area
Crime or Incident: Scam Alert

CIRCUMSTANCES:

On May 22, 2019, The Fort Bragg Police Department began receiving reports of a new telephone scam being conducted in the Fort Bragg area.

From reports, the scam begins with a supposed “family member” or “friend” calling from an unknown number and being in some type of trouble. This has ranged from being kidnapped, to being involved in a traffic collision and being detained against their will. The family member or friend will be extremely distraught to the point where the person receiving the call cannot understand them.

At this point another person will take the phone and explain what has occurred. They will then provide instructions that the police not be notified, and demand payment in order to have their family member or friend released. If the person receiving the call requests to speak with the family member or friend, the second party will oblige, but again, the receiver will be met with an inconsolable person screaming and shouting. The second party will then again pick up the phone and demand payment be sent to him via western union.

After the money has been sent, the caller will provide a location to pick up their family member but never arrive. It is later determined the family member or friend is safe and sound, unaware of the scam.

The Fort Bragg Police Department is requesting that the public report this type of activity immediately to law enforcement. If you receive one of these calls and want to verify someone’s wellbeing, please utilize their telephone number or contact them in person. Do not allow the caller to hand them the phone or provide you with a number to call.

Anonymous tips may be left on the Crime Tip Hotline at (707) 961-3049.

END