

# Is this the Grandparent Scam?

A common fraud that targets New Brunswick seniors is the “emergency” or “grandparent” scam.

If you get a frantic call from a family member asking you to send money – wait! Watch out for these red flags.



I got an unexpected call or email from a relative in some kind of trouble.



My relative needs a large sum of money urgently.



My relative asked me not to tell their parents or other family members that they are in trouble.



My relative instructed me to send cash, Bitcoin or gift cards right away.



My relative instructed me to lie about why I need to withdraw so much money if I’m asked.



My relative instructed me to buy gift cards from multiple stores to avoid suspicion.

This is a general checklist for the red flags of the grandparent scam – keep in mind that there may be more.

# How do I protect myself?

## 1. Never send money unless you can verify the identity of the caller.

- Call your family member back on a number you know to be theirs (like their cell phone).
- Contact another family member (like a parent or other relative) to verify that the caller really is travelling or in trouble.

## 2. Take steps to protect your personal information

It's easier than ever for scam artists to find out details about your family members such as their name, age, occupation and the names of their friends. With this information, scammers can piece together a convincing story that preys on your emotions and gets you to act without thinking.

Here are just a few of the places a person can find the names of your family members and their relation to you:

- Social media sites such as Facebook or Instagram
- Obituary notices
- Online listings of family trees such as Ancestry.ca
- Websites of family-run companies

Be sure to check your privacy settings online and hang up or delete the email if you are contacted out of the blue by a stranger.

## 3. Report the grandparent scam

Protect yourself and others in your community by reporting the scam. If you've been targeted by the grandparent scam, report it to the police or RCMP and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at **1-888-495-8501** or report online at [www.antifraudcentre.ca](http://www.antifraudcentre.ca).