



Marin County Sheriff's Office
Bureau of Administration and Support Services
Professional Standards Unit

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fraud Alert

Marin County, CA – Over the past few weeks, a number of Marin County residents have fallen victim to fraud attempts. On several occasions, residents of both Novato and San Rafael have received telephone calls from male callers, crying, claiming to be a family member. The caller stated he is incarcerated in Canada and asked for bail money to be wired to Canada.

On several occasions, the victims have attempted to wire the money. An employee of the wire company advised the victims about the probability of a scam and put their transactions on hold. On each occasion, the victims were subsequently able to determine that the claims were fraudulent and the wire company returned the victims' money to them.

As a reminder, keep informed about the latest con schemes in your community by reading the local newspaper or watching the news. Be skeptical about any proposal that sounds too good to be true or has to be kept secret. Do not rush into anything. Check out assertions with friends, lawyers, law enforcement, the Better Business Bureau, or the state or county consumer affairs department.

If you are the victim of fraud, notify law enforcement immediately. You may be embarrassed because you were tricked, but your information may be vital in catching the con artist and preventing others from being victimized.

Additional information can be found at the following websites:

Federal Trade Commission: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/index.shtml>

California Attorney General: <http://ag.ca.gov/consumers.php>

Anyone with information who lives in the jurisdiction of the Marin County Sheriff's Office can call the Sheriff's Office at 415-479-2311. Other residents can call their local law enforcement agency or Bay Area Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS and possibly receive a cash reward.