



BENSENVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Common Scams

Gypsy scams:

- Offender uses ruse to gain access to residence. Usually pretend to be from a utility company (i.e. water department). Distract resident while second offender enters residence and ransacks bedrooms
- Offender uses ruse to lure resident outside. Usually pretend to be new neighbor or performing work for neighbor and want to discuss property lines

Nigerian scams:

- Offender convinces someone to forward packages that they receive onto an international location. The original items have been purchased with stolen credit card information.
- Offender convinces someone to wire money to them after receiving a check that appears authentic but later turns out to be counterfeit.

Lottery scams:

- Offender sends letter or email along with a check stating you won a lottery. You are asked to pay some type of processing fee in order to claim your prize. The original check will ultimately be returned as counterfeit.

Wire transfer scams:

- Offender purchases something that you have offered for sale on the internet. They send you a check for more than the actual amount and ask you to wire them the difference. The original check will ultimately be returned as counterfeit.

Third party employer scam:

-Offender hires you to work from home as quality control. Packages are sent to you and you are asked to re-package them and send them to another location. The original items have been purchased with stolen credit card information.

Arrested Grandchild scam:

-Offender calls you and a young voice says "Grandma or Grandpa". A second offender gets on the phone pretending to be a police officer. You are told your grandson is under arrest and the bond money needs to be wired to the police station.

Lonely Hearts scam:

-Offender meets you on line and pretends to be a prince or princess from another country that is trying to get to the U.S. Offender agreed to get married upon arrival to the U.S., but needs airfare wired to them first.

Home Repair scams:

- Offender agrees to perform work at you house and collects payment up front. They never return and their cell phone is disconnected.
- Offender agrees to perform work for one price and when the work is completed, they change the original agreed upon price.
- The work is done with sub standard materials.

Check Washing:

-Offender goes through residential mailboxes and finds outgoing mail, specifically checks. Offender "washes" the information on the check and makes it payable to himself.