



HUDSON POLICE DEPARTMENT



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Press Release

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www.hudsonpd.com

Remain anonymous call the Crime Line at (603) 594-1150

For Immediate Release

Date: 01/26/2017

Authorized by: Captain Avery

Contact: Capt. Avery

On 01/26/2017 the Hudson Police Department at approximately 12:30 responded to the area of Walmart for a report that a local woman had been kidnapped and was being held for ransom.

While responding to the call it was also learned that the Merrimack Police Department was dealing with the same incident in their town involving the same two victims.

Through investigation it was determined that a Husband and Wife from Hudson had been scammed into believing that the other one had been kidnapped and where in imminent danger if the demands for ransom were not followed. Both parties wired money through Western Union to pay a ransom for the other one. At no time were either subject in danger.

Through the investigation it was also learned that the money was withdrawn in Puerto Rico, and a Cell phone ping of the suspect also came back to Puerto Rico.

This case is currently being investigated by the Hudson Police Criminal Investigation Division.

This abduction scam has been occurring for the last few years throughout the country.

The criminals perpetrating this scam are very sophisticated. They were able to get two people to believe that their loved one was the victim of a serious crime.

Some things to remember if you receive a call like this:

- 1: Calls are usually made from an outside area code, but often will "spoof" caller ID to appear to come from a known or local number.**
- 2: May involve multiple phone calls.**
- 3: Callers go to great lengths to keep you on the phone.**
- 4: Callers try prevent the victim from calling or locating the "kidnapped" victim.**
- 5: Ransom money is only accepted via wire or online transfer.**

If you receive a call about an abducted loved one, here are some tips to get through this:

- 1: Stay calm.**
- 2: Try to slow the situation down.**
- 3: Avoid sharing information about yourself or your family during the call.**
- 4: Request to speak to the victim directly. Ask, "How do I know my loved one is okay?"**
- 5: Request the kidnapped victim call back from his or her cell phone.**
- 6: Listen carefully to the voice of the kidnapped victim if they speak and ask questions only they would know.**
- 7: If they don't let you speak to the victim, ask them to describe the victim, what they are wearing, jewelry or other small personal details only someone with them could know, or describe the vehicle they drive, if applicable.**
- 8: While staying on the line with alleged kidnappers, try to call the alleged kidnap victim from another phone.**
- 9: Attempt to text or contact the victim via social media.**
- 10: Attempt to physically locate the victim.**
- 11: To buy time, repeat the caller's request and tell them you are writing down the demand, or tell the caller you need time to get things moving.**
- 12: Don't directly challenge or argue with the caller. Keep your voice low and steady.**
- 13: Contact local law enforcement through 911, or the FBI.**

Any questions on this incident may be directed to Capt. William Avery of the Hudson Police Dept.