



**BE SMART!**

# **LOVED ONE SCAMS**

**What to know about them and how to avoid them**

## **WHAT IS IT?**

A person calls and says they are your grandchild or other loved one, and they need your help with an emergency — a medical crisis or legal trouble.

### **🚩 SEE THE RED FLAG!**

They urgently need you to send money, and may insist on secrecy.

## **WHAT TO KNOW**

The caller may have obtained information about your personal contacts online. This will make the impersonation seem real.

## **BE SMART!**

- **DO NOT send any money!**
- Be suspicious — do not confirm or give any personal information.
- Call your loved one or another family member to verify the emergency.
- If contacted by email, mark them as *SPAM*. If contacted by phone, hang up and *BLOCK* the number.

## **WHERE TO GET HELP**

- Tell a friend or family member.
- File a report at [uspis.gov](https://uspis.gov) or call 1-877-876-2455.



**UNITED STATES POSTAL  
INSPECTION SERVICE**

***uspis.gov***  
**1-877-876-2455**