

SCAMS! BEWARE AND BE ALERT!

The **Grandparents Scam** is targeting older people across Iowa and it is re-surfacing again in our area. The caller tricks the elderly victim by claiming to be a grandchild or relative in serious trouble and needing immediate financial help. The caller always claims an emergency need for money, insists that you need to act quickly and pressures you to keep it quiet. The criminal insists that you wire funds or deposit money into a prepaid money card account. Don't send money until you take the time to check out the story. Ask for contact information and let them know you'll get back to them soon. Call your local police department or sheriff's office as they can verify the story.

Spoofing Security State Bank Phone Numbers is another scam. The caller ID appears as if the call is from Security State Bank, using the bank phone number, but in fact, the caller may be from a resort or credit card company. Please remember that Security State Bank will **NEVER** call you and then ask for any confidential information such as social security number, account number, debit card number, PIN number, etc. If you are ever in doubt, hang up and call us back at our official, advertised telephone number and **NOT** any number they may have given you.

The **Sweetheart Scam** is another method criminals and scammers target people. This is when someone initiates contact through social media or the telephone, and pretends to emotionally hook someone by beginning a false relationship with them. Once the victim believes they are in a relationship (boyfriend/girlfriend, fiancé, etc.) with this stranger, they will attempt to have the victim send them money for some emergency (family member of theirs is sick, travel expenses to come visit the victim, money to start a business, etc.) Do **NOT** send any money to anyone you do not know! If you feel that you or someone you know may be taken advantage of, reach out to your local police department or sheriff's office so they can follow up.

There is no shame in admitting you have been fooled.

Don't make it worse by ignoring it. Report it immediately and let Security State Bank and the local authorities aware as soon as possible so we can help protect you against further financial damage!