

# Media Release

## Yavapai County Sheriff's Office

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**November 11, 2016**

### *Fraud Schemes Alert*

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Scammers continue to remain very creative in their approach to separate victim's from their money. These 2 recently reported scams are a small example. YCSO encourages everyone to remain vigilant and share this information with others, especially seniors who remain the focus of scammers. Please consider the great downloadable resources available here: <http://www.ycsoaz.gov/brochures/>, including the 'Little Book of Scams.' Also remember that scammers can 'spoof' phone numbers so the number appearing on your caller ID will not be the actual phone number being used by the scammer.

#### Federal Grant Scam –

On November 4, 2016, deputies met with a 54-year-old Camp Verde woman reporting a scam. The victim had received a phone call from a man claiming he was a federal government employee and offered her an \$8000 grant due to her good credit history. The scammer provided a claim number along with a special phone number (area code 202) she was instructed to call to get the grant. Very smartly, the victim did not call and notified YCSO. She did note that the day before, she received a similar call from a so called 'federal employee' requesting her social security number for identification. She refused.

After speaking with the victim, the investigating deputy called the claim number acting as the victim. The 'federal employee' instructed the deputy to obtain a \$200 iTunes card from a nearby convenience store, provide the card number and then expect an \$8000 transfer to the card for her use. The scammer also promised her the \$200 paid would be credited back to the card. As is typical in these scams, the suspect requested the victim use a cell phone and keep an open line throughout the transaction. This is done so the card number can be quickly captured and used. The deputy, still acting as the victim, discontinued the call and confirmed to the victim that she was being scammed.

#### Car Payment Scam –

On November 9, 2016, a female scammer called a 73-year-old Sedona resident and told her that she was several months behind on her car payment. She was directed to make an immediate payment or "they" would be over to impound her vehicle immediately. The victim did not have a loan on her vehicle, so she assumed it was a scam and decided to report it so that others would not fall victim. The call came from an area code 928 number.

*Citizens can contact the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office with information or questions at 928-771-3260*

*or the YCSO website: [www.ycsoaz.gov](http://www.ycsoaz.gov)*