**Beware of the Grandparent Scam**

District of Columbia residents should be on the alert for the “**grandparent scam**,” warns the District of Columbia Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking (DISB).

**Sample Grandparent Scam**

Here is an example of a typical scam. Sarah, age 87, is the doting grandparent to two granddaughters, Jill and Lindsey. Lindsey is attending college out-of-state and, from time-to-time, Sarah gives her money. Lindsey often posts pictures of her and her grandmother on various social media sites.

One day, Sarah receives a call from Brad, crying very hard and claiming to be Lindsey’s friend. He explains that Lindsey is in trouble and that he needs Sarah to wire $1,200 immediately; he says the police will call her later to explain the situation. Brad begs Sarah not to tell any family members yet because Lindsey wants to do it herself. Sarah, very frightened for Lindsey, wires the $1,200. The police never contact Sarah and when Sarah finally called Lindsey, she was safe and sound in her dorm room. Lindsey also explained that she did not know anyone named Brad.

**How to Avoid the Grandparent Scam**

District of Columbia consumers can use the following tips to avoid becoming victims of the grandparent scam:

* Never send money to individuals before verifying that the calls are coming from legitimate sources.
* If a caller claims to be a grandchild, hang up the phone and call the actual grandchild or the grandchild’s parents immediately.

District of Columbia residents who believe they, or someone they know, have been a victim of a financial scam should contact DISB’s Enforcement and Consumer Protection Division at 202-727-8000.

Learn how to avoid other scams by visiting [disb.dc.gov/page/consumer-scams](https://disb.dc.gov/page/consumer-scams).