



# Ukiah Police Department

Safety, Professionalism, Community Service

**Chris Dewey**  
Chief of Police

## Press Release / Scam preying on the elderly UPD case #16-0971

On April 4<sup>th</sup> at about 10:22 am, a UPD officer contacted an 85 year old female subject, who resides in the 600 block of Leslie Street regarding a theft. The elderly female subject reported that on March 24<sup>th</sup>, she received a phone call from a subject who identified himself as "Michael Crow". Michael told the victim that he was an attorney for her grandson "Nathan" who was currently in a Las Vegas jail pending local charges. Michael told the victim that he needed \$5,800.00 so "Nathan" could be bailed out of jail. Concerned about her grandson, the victim decided to send the money. Michael instructed the victim to use \$100.00 bills, place them inside a magazine and use a 9x12 envelope to send both the magazine and cash payment. The victim was instructed what to write on the outside of the envelope and address where it would be sent. A courier from Bay Area Express came by and collected the envelope from the victim. The courier service dropped the envelope off at FedEx and it was shipped to an address in Whittaker Michigan. The victim does have a grandson named "Nathan", but after she sent the money discovered that he was not in custody in Las Vegas and she had been the victim of a scam. Neither the courier nor shipping company appears to be involved in this scam. The case is under investigation at the Ukiah Police Department.

As a reminder in regards to con games, fraud schemes and scams:

*Be skeptical of any individual that calls you on the phone, or contacts you via email or texts and requests you to send money.*

*Never be pressured or threatened into sending money.*

*If you're not sure, just hang up on the person.*

*If it seems too good to be true it probably is.*

*Call the police if you are suspicious.*

*For more helpful information on how to avoid scams, please visit the Ukiah Police Departments web site at [www.ukiahpolice.com](http://www.ukiahpolice.com) , and click on the Crime Prevention Flyers tab.*