



College Place Police Department

Media Release

Chief Troy Tomaras

*****For Immediate Release *****

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The College Place Police Department is investigating a recent phone scam where the caller was demanding ransom money in exchange for releasing the victim's daughter. The victim who was referred to by name could hear what sounded like a young girl screaming in the background while the suspect threatened torture while demanding money. Fortunately for the victim they did not have a daughter and immediately realized it was a scam. The victim attempted to play along to obtain incriminating information, but the suspect was spooked and disconnected the call. The victim immediately reported the disturbing call to police.

Scams like this have increased with the amount of information available on social media and the internet. In this case the suspect found the victims cell phone and name from an internet search. Many suspects collect information to include photos from social media and attempt to use it as leverage against the victim. These criminals are very convincing and know how to invoke people's emotions. If you receive a phone call similar to this or are unsure of the credibility please contact the Police immediately.

The College Place Police Department suggests conducting a Google search on yourself routinely to see what information is available online. Many people are unaware you may select to opt out of many web pages that publish personal information. Other information on how to protect yourself from scams can be found on the Federal Trade Commission web page at Consumer.ftc.gov/scam-alerts .