



News Release - Johnson County (Kan.) Sheriff's Office

Date – March 6, 2014

For more information contact Master Deputy Tom Erickson at 913-715-5802

Kidnapping Scam Alert

Edgerton, Kan. – On Tuesday Feb. 4, deputies were contacted by a resident who was on the phone with a person claiming to be holding his brother hostage in lieu of a \$2,000 ransom.

The caller demanded \$2,000 be immediately wired or his brother would be killed. The caller told the resident his brother had been involved in an accident with the caller and that the brother owed \$2,000 in damages.

The caller also was adamant the resident stay on the line while retrieving and wiring the money.

Deputies were able to listen to the phone call and gather the phone number from the caller ID. Deputies discovered the same phone number had been used in previous scams in different parts of the country.

To avoid becoming a victim of a scam like this, be leery of calls from unknown persons or area codes. The sheriff's office encourages anyone receiving questionable calls like this to contact local law enforcement officials. Additionally, money should never be given over the phone to unknown persons.

Below are links to similar stories of this scam.

<http://gazebonews.com/2013/12/20/be-aware-kidnapping-phone-scam-is-going-around/>

<http://www.counton2.com/story/22798136/phone-scam-victim-he-has-no-choice-but-to-kill-her>