

# Family Imposter

KNOW YOUR RELATIONSHIPS  TAKE STEPS TO VERIFY

A criminal posing as a relative claims to be in trouble and funds are needed immediately.



## HOW

- Scammers spike your emotional response.
- Claims are made that a horrible incident occurred involving a family member.
- Contacts are asked to keep the situation private.
- Funds are requested urgently to help resolve the emergency.
- Common forms of payment include wire transfers, gift cards and cash.
- Funds sent likely cannot be retrieved.

## STEPS TO VERIFY

1. Start with the SLOW method: SLOW down, LOG the contact, make ONE call to a primary contact, reach out to an organization in your life WHO cares.
2. Keep phone numbers to your trusted family and friends in an easy to locate place, such as near the phone.
3. Make up a secret code to use among family members and exchange it during actual family emergencies.
4. Never send money to parties you cannot verify.



**CONSUMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE & UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT  
GET HELP WITH CONSUMER PROBLEMS AND REPORT SCAMS

1-800-649-2424  
[ago.vermont.gov/cap](https://ago.vermont.gov/cap)



Go online or scan QR code to watch the [Avoiding the Family Emergency Scam](#) video.