



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LINCOLN, CA, June 18, 2007 -- On Wednesday, June 13th, a resident of Lincoln was the victim of a grand theft of \$10,000 by false pretenses. The method that was used in this case is somewhat common, and Spanish speaking members of the community are often the target.

The crime usually occurs when a Spanish speaker is approached by a suspect who also speaks Spanish. The victim is often female. The suspect tells the victim a family member has been involved in an accident or some variation and needs immediate medical attention. The suspect tells the victim the family member is in the hospital and they need to pay some amount of money.

They then offer the victim diamonds which they say are worth considerably more than the amount they need. The suspect tells the victim some reason as to why they cannot sell the diamonds elsewhere. They may ask the victim for money and as collateral the victim can hold the valuable "diamonds". They often will agree to meet with the victim later in the day.

Usually at this point a third party approaches and takes a "sample" of the "diamonds." This third party is really working with the suspect. The third party takes the "diamond" to a jewelry store then returns and flashes a large amount of money and excitedly states they just came from the jewelry store and the diamonds are real. This party normally acts like they do not know the suspect and may act as if they are also interested in buying more of the diamonds.

The suspect then convinces the victim to withdraw a large sum of money from their bank account. The suspect will then give the "diamonds" to the victim and take the money, never to return. The suspects are often well dressed or clean cut in appearance. Spanish appears to be their primary language and they may be either male or female. The diamonds are not real, of course, and the victim is left with several worthless pieces of cut glass.

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In this most recent case, the suspects were described as both being male Hispanics. One was described as 5'3", 180 lbs., black hair, and brown eyes with a mole on his right cheek. He was wearing a blue T-shirt and tan khaki pants. The second subject was described as 5'10", 170 lbs. wearing a dark blue baseball cap, dark blue shirt and khaki pants.

Anyone with information regarding this specific case is asked to call the Lincoln Police Department at 916-645-4040.

If you are approached in a similar manner, please do not give your money to the subjects. Call the Lincoln Police Department. The police department can check whether the claim is legitimate and if so, direct the subjects to social services for help.

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