



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Scam Alert: Callers Impersonating the Osage Beach Police Department

Osage Beach, Mo. - A common scam is making the rounds again in Osage Beach, with a local twist. Earlier this week, someone posing as an officer with the Osage Beach Police Department called a local individual, claiming their daughter had been arrested after causing an accident while under the influence of cough syrup.

The impersonator said the daughter needed bond money, and that a lawyer would be in touch with payment instructions. Sure enough, a second caller—using the correct name of a local attorney—followed up, requesting several thousand dollars to secure her release.

If anyone requests money, gift cards, or personal information over the phone, it's a scam.

The targeted individual was able to reach their daughter and confirm she was safe and had not been in an accident. No money was lost, but the caller wanted to help warn others.

These types of scams are designed to create panic. When you believe a loved one is in danger, critical thinking can fly out the window. Scammers count on that moment of fear to trick even the most cautious among us.

But if something feels off, it probably is.

Here's what you need to know:

1. **Police officers do not call family members to inform them of an arrest.** If someone is detained, *they* will be the one to call you.
2. **Do not hesitate to verify information.** Ask the officer for their name and badge number and hang up. Call the department immediately to verify their employment.
3. **Legitimate attorneys do not request bond payments over the phone.**
4. **Pay attention to detail.** This scam caller gave the wrong address for the Police Department. While not every citizen knows this offhand, scam callers often make easily verifiable mistakes.
5. **Always call us if you suspect a scam.** Our dispatchers are trained, friendly, and ready to help. Whether it's just a gut feeling or something specific, we'd rather you

call and be safe than sorry. Phone numbers can be spoofed, so always hang up and call us on the **non-emergency line: (573) 302-2010**.

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