

Important Notice

The Rhode Island Public Defender has been informed of a scam involving people posing as representatives of this office. The scam, often referred to as the grandparent scam, begins with a phone call indicating that a family member or loved one has been arrested and is in need of bail money. The scammer then asks the family member to wire money for the bail.

This is not something that employees of the Rhode Island Public Defender would ever ask you to do. So please remember:

1. The Rhode Island Public Defender does not deal with money in any way.
2. Anyone representing themselves as a member of the Rhode Island Public Defender and asking for money is a scammer.
3. While our employees may contact you to tell you how to post bail or even how much bail must be posted they are never permitted to take money in order to post bail for clients and will never ask you to send money.
4. You should not send any money if a person representing themselves as a member of this office asks for you to send them money. You should report this immediately to the Rhode Island Public Defender (401) 222-3492 and to the Rhode Island Attorney General's consumer protection unit (401) 274-4400.

REMEMBER NO LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT AGENCY WILL ASK YOU TO WIRE MONEY TO THEM IMMEDIATELY. THE RIPD WILL NEVER ASK YOU TO SEND MONEY.