

BBB Scam Alert: Emergency scams instill fear via fake texts, mugshots

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Emergency scams, sometimes called “grandparent scams,” prey on the willingness of an unsuspecting, worried individual to help friends and family in need. Often, they will impersonate their targets’ loved ones, make up an urgent situation, and plead for help... and money. Social media sites allow scammers to look up information and offer plausible stories. They may even incorporate nicknames and real travel plans into the con to convince their targets.

How the scam works:

Emergency scams are about a family member or friend in a dire situation. You get a call, email, or social media message from someone claiming to be a distressed family member. They may say they’ve been arrested or there was an accident, medical emergency, or other calamity. They provide convincing details, such as family names and school details.

A twist to this scam targets parents of college students. The scammer calls the family member and claims their child has been arrested and needs bail money sent immediately via a payment app like Venmo or PayPal. They may even text pictures of a mugshot and say that the child is headed to jail with dangerous criminals. Terrified parents send the money, only to find out later that the story wasn’t true- and the money is gone.

A common version is the “grandparent scam,” where the con artist contacts a

grandparent claiming to be their grandchild and asking for money. The plea is so persuasive that the grandparent wires money to the scammer, only to find out their family member was safe and sound later. This scam can also work in reverse, where the “grandparent” calls their grandchild, pleading for help.

The scammer may also tell the victim that someone will arrive at your house to pick up the money.

The FTC has warned that scammers are using voice cloning techniques to imitate the voices of loved ones. The technology enables con artists to copy the voices of persons close to you from videos they may find on social media or other sources. They can then use tools to imitate the voice of your loved one and have it appear to say whatever they wish in a call. Some voice cloning efforts may be crude, and others very sophisticated - either way, this adds to this scam’s confusing and frightening aspect.

Tips to spot this scam:

Resist the urge to act immediately, no matter how dramatic the story is. Check out the story with other family and friends, but hang up or close the message and call your loved one directly. Don’t call the phone number provided by the caller or caller ID. Ask questions that would be hard for an impostor to answer correctly.

Know what your family members are sharing online. You may not have control over your family’s social media accounts but familiarize yourself with what they share online and what photos they may

have posted. Make sure they’re aware of this type of scam and advise them to use privacy options to keep other people from seeing and stealing their images.

Don’t send money if you are unsure about the call. If the caller asks you to send money via a payment app or a gift card, do your homework to ensure that it’s not a scam. If you wire money and later realize it is a fraud, the police must be alerted.

If you are told that someone will come to your home to pick up the money, do not answer your door and call the police immediately. This action could be part of the scam, and the driver may not be aware they are part of the fraud.

Chamber holds Legislative Breakfast

AGAWAM – On Wednesday, Oct. 2, the West of the River Chamber of Commerce will hold a VIP Legislative Breakfast at Springfield Country Club on Elm St. in West Springfield from 7:30 to 9 a.m.

There will be a legislative panel that includes State Reps. Mike Finn from West Springfield and Nicholas Boldyga from Agawam. State Sen. John Velis will also be featured at the event. All three are running for re-election in their respective districts.

To register or help sponsor the event, go to westoftheriverchamber.com for more information.

Pet supply and gifts fundraising tag sale to be held on Oct. 5

BELCHERTOWN – Belchertown Animal Control will hold a fundraising Pet Supply and Gifts Tag Sale on Saturday, Oct. 5 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the shelter, 165 George Hannum St.

There will be lots of pet Halloween outfits, leashes, collars, harnesses, beds, sweaters, food, treats, carriers, litter boxes, toys, stairs, gates, ramps, etc.



and many one of a kind items. Some items are new and some are gently used, but all will be priced to sell.

Tag sale items are items donated by community members and friends, but not currently needed at the shelter. All money raised from these items benefits the ACO Gift Fund which helps shelter and community pets with extra needs such as surgery or prescriptions.

Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

The Agawam City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, October 7, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** in Veterans Hall at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear an Ordinance to amend Chapter 180 of the Code of the Town of Agawam by adding definitions for driveway and driveway-common/shared as sponsored by Mayor Johnson and Council President Sandlin (TOR-2024-8). This public hearing will be live-streamed on the Town of Agawam’s website at www.agawam.ma.us and will also be televised on Cable Access Channel 15 or Channel 1074. TOR-2024-8 is available for public inspection by emailing the office of the City Clerk for an electronic copy at vgioscia@agawam.ma.us

BY ORDER OF:
 Rosemary Sandlin
 City Council President
 09/26, 10/03/2024

Legal Notice Town of Agawam Planning Board

The Agawam Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, October 3, 2024 at 6:00 PM** at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of Mayor Johnson and City Council President Sandlin for a proposed zoning amendment for “an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 180 of the Code of the City of Agawam Adding Definitions for Driveway and Driveway – Common/Shared.” A copy of the proposal can be obtained from the Office of Planning and Community Development between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM at the Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA.

By Order Of:
 Vi Baldwin, Chairperson
 Agawam Planning Board
 09/19, 09/26/2024

Commonwealth of
 Massachusetts
 The Trial Court
 Probate and Family Court

Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD24P1990EA
 Estate of:
Ronald Ernest Hofmann
 Also known as:
Ronald E Hofmann
 Date of Death: 05/28/2024
**CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
 A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Lee Anne Bollinger of Agawam, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Lee Anne Bollinger of Agawam, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
 You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition

from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/18/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the admin-

istration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: September 19, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani,
 Register of Probate
 09/26/2024

Commonwealth of
 Massachusetts
 The Trial Court
 Probate and Family Court
 Hampden Division
 Docket No. HD24P1914EA

Estate of:
Elaine Marie Taupier
 Also Known As:
Elaine M. Taupier
 Date of Death:
August 23, 2024
**INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Robert D Taupier of Agawam, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Robert D Taupier of

Agawam, MA
Deborah A Young of Agawam, MA

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
 09/26/2024

Agawam Advertiser News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts’ public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon,
 Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

