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Citizen Advisory

The Sarasota County Sheriff's Office wants to warn citizens about telephone scams being conducted in the area. This is the second alert of this type in two months.

Detectives received reports this week from people who were called by someone claiming to be with law enforcement that attempts to gain account numbers and other personal financial information from them.

Residents have also reported phone calls asking them to wire money out of state, usually to Canada but also Chicago, to help a relative in trouble.

Sheriff Tom Knight encourages residents to just hang up on these types of calls. "These scammers are crafty and convincing. But as nice as they sound, they are criminals trying to separate you from your hard earned money."

The Sheriff's Office reminds residents to never provide personal financial information, particularly over the phone. And do not wire money to anyone unless you are certain you know who you are dealing with or you can find an alternate way to confirm the relative is truly in need.

Investigators encourage anyone with elderly friends or relatives to discuss these scams and warnings.