



**MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ROBERT L. CROWDER, SHERIFF**

**DETECTIVES CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION
EXPLOITATION OF ELDERLY**

May 12, 2011—Detectives with the Martin County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division are currently conducting an investigation into the report of an elderly victim (87 years of age) scammed out of \$8,000 by an unscrupulous individual claiming to be her grandson.

The victim in this case, a Port St. Lucie resident, initially made her report to the Port St. Lucie Police Department. She stated that on May 11, 2011, she was contacted by a male claiming to be her grandson. The caller knew her grandson's name and stated that he had a gambling problem and was in trouble with his bookie. She stated that he was on his way to the area and needed her assistance. He asked that she withdraw \$8,000 in cash, take it to the Cracker Barrell restaurant in Jensen Beach and leave it in her car on the front seat with the windows rolled down and to go inside the restaurant. He further stated that law enforcement was involved and the police were going to conduct a "sting operation".

Believing that this was her grandson, the victim withdrew the cash and followed the instructions. A short time after leaving the monies in her vehicle she received another phone call from the male indicating that the plan worked, the police had the suspect in custody and he would be by her home to return the money after going to the police department to make a statement.

After a few hours of no contact, the victim contacted her grandson and he told her he was safe in New York and had no knowledge of the prior phone calls. He advised her to immediately contact law enforcement.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Leo Ferreira at 772 220-7060 or Treasure Coast CrimeStoppers.

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Rhonda Irons, Media Relations
Martin County Sheriff's Office