

COMMUNITY ALERT



Evanston Police Department
Richard Eddington, Chief of Police
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<http://www.cityofevanston.org/departments/police/>

CRIME ALERT – Confidence Crimes

The Evanston Police Department is issuing the following Crime Alert regarding multiple incidents of two scams against citizens. The Department is currently investigating reports of both these confidence crimes on the south and west sides of the city: There have been multiple reports of both scams.

Evanston residents are urged to beware of either of the following approaches:

1. The first involves a suspect asking for money for a sick child. The victim is approached on the street or the offender knocks on the door. The suspect then asks for money for a sick child, claims to be a neighbor or asks to do minor work for money for himself or the child. If the victim offers to call police for assistance, the subject leaves or states that the police have refused to help him. The suspect may state he will return the money but never does.

Residents are urged to keep all outside doors locked and only speak to strangers through the locked doors. Call police immediately and give a description of the suspect and a direction of travel.

2. In the second scam, the stranger claims to be from Nicor Gas and demands to see a copy of the homeowner's gas bill to "be considered for a refund." Nicor offers no such refunds and the suspect is not a Nicor employee. The Nicor Customer Service telephone is 1-888-642-6748.

Other versions of this scam may be suspects posing as City of Evanston employees from the water or other departments, as private contractors or landscapers who claim to have damaged something on your property, all of whom demand entry to your home or who try to entice you out of your home, leaving your doors unlocked. Do not allow these individuals into your home and do not go outside with them to examine claims of damage. Call the City of Evanston or Evanston Police to check on their authenticity and to report suspicious persons.

Evanston Police Emergency 911
Evanston Police Non-emergency 847-866-5000

City of Evanston Main Telephone 847-328-2100

For additional information call:
Community Strategies Bureau
Evanston Police Department:
847-866-5019

Have the Daily Crime Bulletin emailed to you directly. Sign up at <http://www.cityofevanston.org/departments/police/reports/daily/index.shtml>