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Date: 9/16/2014 9:51:50 AM

Subject: FW: Financial Exploitation Case

Please see the financial exploitation case below from Paul Greenwood, District Attorney in California and nationally recognized in the field of adult protection. This case has a South Carolina connection. It demonstrates the complexity of these cases and the need for coordination and cooperation among all parties involved.

Let me know if you have questions. Thanks.

Mavis Riley

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From: Greenwood, Paul

Sent: Friday, September 12, 2014 1:35 PM

To: ELDERABUSE@LIST.NIH.GOV

Subject: Congratulations! You have won \$1 million

We all have seen or heard this.

We all know of victims who have handed over their life savings via Moneygram, Green Dot, Western Union or through a wire transfer.

Most times the victims are too embarrassed to tell anyone.

And very rarely do we ever hear of a perpetrator being identified and prosecuted.

An often repeated response from law enforcement is "Sorry for your loss, but there is nothing we can do; besides, the suspect is out of state and beyond our jurisdiction."

Well... here is a good Friday afternoon story to end your busy week.

A few months ago I received an e-mail from an 85 year old retired catholic priest who had been encouraged to contact me. Somewhat reluctantly he described how he had been scammed with the promise of having won a million dollars in a sweepstakes scam. The victim's imagination took hold and he already was planning several charitable projects once he got his hands on the prize money.

He was told to wire the "taxes" of \$41,000 via a bank transfer to a Wells Fargo account. He did so.

Eventually, that sickening feeling developed. He reached out after confiding in a close friend.

Instead of directing the victim to file a police report, my office agreed that we could investigate.

I am blessed to work among a group of dedicated former police officers who are as hungry as I am to catch a scammer.

After interviewing my victim, a search warrant was served on our local Wells Fargo Bank branch. We had no clue whose account it was.

I then e-mailed Ron Long, Director of Regulatory Affairs for Wells Fargo and explained the situation. Within 24 hours – thanks to Ron’s intervention – we had details of the account into which our victim’s money had been transferred [in South Carolina] and a photo of our suspect at that branch!

Naturally, the suspect had opened up an account using bogus information.

But then my investigators worked with local law enforcement in South Carolina and within a couple of weeks a detective called us to say that he recognized our suspect from the bank photo.

Now we had the suspect’s real name.

We discovered that the suspect had recently been arrested in South Carolina while at another bank – probably collecting more stolen funds. But he had bailed out and failed to appear at his first court appearance.

So my investigators drafted an arrest warrant and I filed a case charging the suspect with elder financial exploitation and identity theft.

Weeks passed.

Then on June 15th 2014 – World Elder Abuse Awareness Day [so appropriate] – our suspect was pulled over in Atlanta, Georgia on a routine traffic stop. The officer ran suspect’s details and came across our warrant. Suspect ended up in a Georgia jail on that Sunday – unable to raise the bail on a \$250,000 warrant that our judge had set.

Two weeks ago our investigators flew to Georgia to pick up Mr. Earl Roberts.

Yesterday he pled guilty to felony elder financial abuse and will be sentenced on October 9th 2014.

Kudos to everyone involved... for our victim being courageous enough to reach out, to our dedicated investigators, to law enforcement in South Carolina, Wells Fargo, the unknown officer in Atlanta doing his job on that Sunday....

And thanks to you all out there for what you have accomplished this week in trying to pursue justice on behalf of older adults.

Have a great weekend.

Paul Greenwood
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