



# The Grand Parent Scam

A scam that has been in circulation for years is surfacing again in the area and whose targets are the elderly.

The scam starts out as a phone call to a senior from "their favorite grandchild" claiming to be in jail, whose car is broken down or is in immediate need of money. The caller asks the person to not tell their parents for fear of getting into trouble. The victim should verify the caller by asking who they are. Talk to family members to see if the person calling is indeed who they say they are and if they are truly not in the country.

The callers are very convincing at talking a person out of their money and can be persistent.

Typically the caller is fast talking and tries to confuse the person.

The scam has been around for many years and comes in many different forms. The caller typically asks the victim to wire transfer the money to through a wire transfer service offered at many stores.

Once the victim sends the money, it is unrecoverable.

If you are a victim of this crime, please report it by calling 763-427-1212.

If you have received phone calls of this nature but are not a victim, please report it by calling 1-866-347-0911 to report a scam.

This is a voice-message mailbox only and your call is important, so please leave your name and a daytime callback number as instructed.



## Daylight Savings Time Home tips

As the days grow shorter and darker, here are a few things to consider:

Is your address clearly visible from the street? If your home is more secluded be sure your address is marked clearly on your

mailbox. This helps emergency vehicles find you in a time of crisis.

Check all outside lights to see if the bulbs need replacing.

Put a timer on one or two

lamps in your home. It will help reduce the tripping hazard when you walk into a dark house.



## Mark Your Calendars Now

Night To Unite  
Tuesday, August 7th 2012  
Senior Safety Fair, Thursday  
May 3rd.

### Noteworthy Items

The speed on a non-posted residential street is 30 m.p.h.

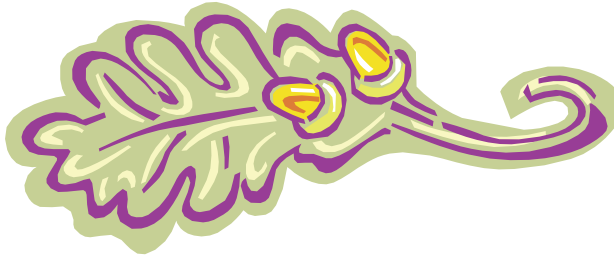
Record all serial numbers, model name, color and size of all bicycles in your garage

Remove or at least hide the GPS in your vehicle. Small items are easily pawned because most owners don't record the serial number or model number.

## To Yield Or Not To Yield

The following excerpts from the Minnesota Driver's Manual ([www.mndriveinfo.org](http://www.mndriveinfo.org)) are good reminders of right-of-way rules at intersections.

- When two vehicles reach an intersection at the same time and there is no traffic light or signal, the driver of the vehicle on the left must yield to the vehicle on the right.
- When two vehicles reach an intersection at the same time and all way stop signs or flashing red lights control the intersection, the driver on the left must yield to the driver on the right.
- A driver who wishes to make a left hand turn must yield to vehicles approaching from the opposite direction when these vehicles are near the intersection or are near enough to



pose the risk of a crash.

- When a green arrow signal indicates that a vehicle may enter the intersection to make a left turn, the driver must yield to other vehicles or pedestrians already within the intersection. After yielding, the driver may continue in the direction of the arrow.
- When drivers approach an uncontrolled "T" intersection, the driver of the vehicle that is turning must yield to all cross traffic.

- Drivers approaching a public road from a private road or driveway must stop and yield to pedestrians to pedestrians and traffic.

- Drivers in the right lane of traffic must yield right of way to transit and metro mobility busses attempting to merge from a bus stop or shoulder.

- When a funeral procession identifies itself through use of headlights, or hazard warning lights, drivers must yield to the entire procession.

- At a stop sign with a pedestrian crosswalk, motorists must stop before entering the crosswalk. Once stopped, motorists must yield the right of way to pedestrians, bicyclists and traffic before proceeding. Pedestrians will often attempt to make eye contact before stepping into the street.

## Confused About The Booster Seat Law?

Boosters are necessary for a child who has outgrown the convertible or combination car seat. Booster seats keep the lap belt positioned properly around the child's hips and the shoulder belt in the proper position.

Some boosters come with a high back, others come without a back but both must be used with a lap/shoulder belt.

Boosters without a back may only be

used in vehicles with a head rest. If your vehicle is equipped with lap belts only, use a tethered harness or check with an auto dealership to have shoulder belts installed.

- A child who is both under age 8 and shorter than 4'9" is required to be fastened in a child seat or booster seat that meets federal safety

motor vehicle safety standards. Under this law, a child cannot use a seatbelt alone until they are age 8 or 4' 9", which ever comes first.

It is recommended to keep a child in a booster seat based on height rather than their age

## Great Web Resources

[www.buckleupkids.state.mn.us](http://www.buckleupkids.state.mn.us)

[www.carseatsmadesimple.org](http://www.carseatsmadesimple.org)

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/age/fraud/Pages/report-a-scam.aspx>. To report a scam.

[www.scambusters.org/](http://www.scambusters.org/)

Scambusters.org is a great web site that

also offers a free weekly e-newsletter.

Snopes.com. The one stop shop to demystify those urban myths we all receive in e-mails.

<https://dps.mn.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

A great state website.



The many state websites are a great resource, check them out today!

# Rules + Courtesy + Safety = Intersection Etiquette

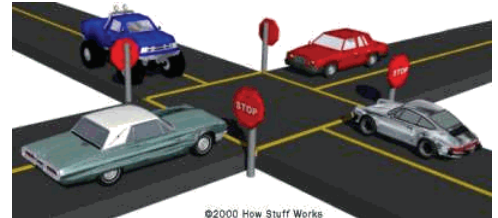
Have you ever approached a traffic signal that was flashing red and noticed that motorists were unsure how to proceed? Or perhaps you've been at an intersection controlled by a stop sign and noticed other motorists not "waiting their turn."

While it's clear that a red traffic signal or stop sign requires a complete stop, the practice of "taking turns" at an intersection, or more accurately, the practice of yielding right of way, is not always clear to motorists. At best, this can result in frustration. At worst, it can result in conflicts with other

motorists.

Many motorists already engage in behaviors that prove helpful in avoiding conflicts. We signal our turns, make eye contact, or use head nods and hand motions to give other motorists, pedestrian and bicyclists the confidence to proceed. Such communication is important since other people can't predict your actions any better than you can predict yours.

However, road way courtesy works as well as people's understanding of the rules of the road.



## City of Blaine Crime Map

Have seen our crime map lately? Are you curious about what crimes are happening and where they are happening?

Check out our crime map. It's updated each month with the previous months calls for service.

Start by going to the city website at:

[www.ci.blaine.mn.us](http://www.ci.blaine.mn.us)

In the search engine in the upper right side of

Stay on top of what's happening in your neighborhood



## Anoka County Supervision Guidelines

When is it appropriate to leave your child alone to care for themselves? These guidelines from Anoka County are minimal acceptable standards.

- 7 and younger. It is inappropriate to leave a child alone for any period of time.
- Ages 8-9. It is acceptable for a child to be left home alone for not more than 2 hours while a parent runs an errand or will be home from work.
- Ages 10-13. It is acceptable for a child to be alone all day until a parent returns from work but it is assumed a parent or caretaker will be there in the evening.
- Ages 14 and older. It is acceptable to be alone for 24 hours or more provided they have knowledge of where the parent is and how to reach them.
- Ages 15 and older:

It is acceptable to baby sit younger children for more than 24 hours.

Before leaving any child alone, put together a safety plan that includes a person the child can go to and a phone number (s) to call. How mature is the child and what are the house rules when you are away?

# A Better Candle Solution

Rebecca Booker

Spring Lake Park-Blaine-Mounds View Fire Department

## Facts about candle fires:

- In Minnesota, 11% of all fires were due to an open flame.
- Families in 70% of homes nationwide that burn candles need to know that there were more than 17,000 candle-caused fires reported annually.
- Candle fires in the U.S. accounted for an estimated 4% of all reported home fires in 2005.
- Thirty-eight percent (38%) of home candle fires started in the bedroom, resulting in 41% of the associated civilian deaths.
- December is the peak time of year for home candle fires. In *December*, 13% of home candle fires began with decorations compared to 4% the rest of the year.
- More than half of all candle fires started when something that could burn, such as furniture, mattresses or bedding, curtains, or decorations, was too close to the candle.
- Falling asleep was a factor in 12% of home candle fires and 26% of the associated deaths.

The top five days for home candle fires were Christmas, Christmas Eve, New Year's Day, New Year's Eve, and Halloween.

**There is a safe alternative.** Fire safe *flameless candles* look like regular candles but don't have an open flame. They operate for hundreds of hours on batteries. Most of the flameless candles have the same glow, are wax and have a scent. Because there is no flame, these candles are safe enough to use in places where traditional candles are not an option.

Flameless candles could be used for emergency lighting. Flameless candles can give light to those looking for ambience and fragrance. No more worrying about kids attracted to open flames. Pets knocking over candles and catching things on fire are not a concern with flameless candles. Teens can use these candles in their bedrooms without parents fearing for their safety.

Look for the flame-free candles at local retailers or online at

<http://cfsi.org>.

This is a great time to re-think our love of candles and go with a flameless solution.

