

# Kidnap/Ransom Scam

APRIL 2019

DOUGLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT



## Incident which occurred in Douglas

On April 3, 2019 at about 2 PM, Officers began investigating a possible kidnapping. Officers responded to the Food City parking lot where a mother was reporting her 19 year old daughter as kidnapped.

The mother received a phone call from her other daughter, in Mexico. The daughter in Mexico received a phone call from a subject who identified himself as “Abel.” The male subject wanted information on her mother, claiming the 19 year old was in trouble.

The mother had just seen her 19 year old daughter about an hour and a half prior to the call. The daughter was wearing a purple shirt and blue jeans. The information on the daughter was given via radio as a BOLO (Be on the look-out). The daughter left the home to hang out with a friend at the CAS school.

At this point, the mother had her son make contact with the friend. The friend had not seen the 19 year old. Soon after, the son received a call via “WhatsApp” by a male subject named “Abel.” The subject claimed to have kidnapped the 19 year old from the Food City parking lot.

While officers were on scene, the mother received a call from “Abel” with instructions in Spanish, on how to get the 19 year old back safe. Abel told the mother; her 19 year old daughter was with a male juvenile who was picked up by the Sinaloa Cartel. During the conversation, the male subject told the mother, he would ask a series of questions for the daughter to answer. The daughter began to answer the

questions.

The mother told officers that it was her daughter’s voice and she noticed her voice was rather calm. At this moment, a detective on scene left the area to speak once more with the friend. As he traveled by the 15th street Park, he noticed a female subject matching the description of the 19 year old.

The detective made contact and was able to identify the female as the missing 19 year old. The female subject was on her cellphone and handed the phone to the detective. The detective could hear a male subject giving instructions. The detective identified himself and the male subject immediately disconnected the line. The 19 year old female was then reunited with her family.

The 19 year old told officers, she was contacted via “WhatsApp.” She was asked several questions and was told to leave the home. The female was told not to answer any other calls or messages. She was told to stay at the 15th street Park until further notice or her mother would be executed.

In conclusion, the caller appeared to attempt to keep all family members on a line; which would prevent them from contacting each other. They were made believe they were being watched. The caller gave precise details on how the kidnapping took place.

### Take Precaution! Do not be a victim!

- ◆ Be careful with unknown telephone numbers—Try to avoid answering them.
- ◆ Be suspicious of any call made through apps such as WhatsApp.
- ◆ Keep information limited and prevent giving out personal details.
- ◆ Be wise with information shared on social media—remember anyone can use it against you.
- ◆ Be aware, the caller will use fear in order to control its victim.
- ◆ Remember, some apps pinpoint your location unless you disable it.
- ◆ During a ransom scam—call your family and the police.
- ◆ Teach your children to be vigilant.