

FRAUD / SCAM ALERT

Recently, the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force has been made aware of a social media / telephone fraud / scam utilizing DCI ICAC's name. The scam, typically targets males who use dating apps. Several dating apps have been targeted, however, most recently, fraudsters have targeted Hinge.com. Victims engage in chats with an alleged adult female. The chats turn sexual and, in several cases, nude photos are exchanged. After the photos are exchanged, the female tells the victim she is underage. Typically, the following day, the victim is contacted by a male claiming to be the father of the female. The "father" demands payment to offset services such as counseling for the female. Soon after, the victim is contacted by another male, claiming to be an Officer or Detective with Wyoming DCI ICAC.

The male purporting to be with WY DCI ICAC tells the victim that if the victim contacts the female's parents and "works" things out, WY DCI ICAC will not charge the victim with sexual exploitation of a child. If the victim contacts the "father", payments of thousands of dollars are demanded to avoid pressing charges.

If you receive this type of communication, please be aware that Wyoming DCI ICAC does not have any association with the above referenced scam. Wyoming DCI would never contact a suspect to request they personally contact a victim family to avoid charges. Additionally, Wyoming DCI would never be party to the exchange of funds to avoid prosecution.

NOTE:

- DCI ICAC sworn personnel have the title Agents and would never refer to themselves as Detective or Officer
- In communications, the perpetrators of the scam use @gmail accounts, not official government accounts such as .gov
- The "Officers" involved in this scam have been reported to have a southern accent

If you are a victim of this type of scam, DO NOT pay, please report the activity to the application you are using, the Division of Criminal Investigation, Sheriff's Office or Police Department.