

## **Be Careful of People Bearing Gifts**

### **From Red Deer/Lacombe Rural Crime Watch**

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Thanks to Ken Wigmore for this: PLEASE SHARE !!

Be wary of accepting any "surprise gift or package" which you neither expected nor personally ordered, especially if it involves any kind of payment as a condition of receiving the gift or package. Also, never accept anything if you do not personally know the sender, or there is no proper ID of who the sender is.

Further to the above, this is what can occur and how quickly and how slick some of these "scammers" are. The culprit in this situation called and said he was from "Express Couriers" and asked if the homeowner was home, as they had a package that required a signature. The individual turned up, within the time he noted, with a basket of flowers and a bottle of wine. Intrigued the lady of the house asked what is the occasion and who is the sender? He replied he did not know, apparently a card was sent separately with a consignment note with the gift. He went to explain because there was alcohol, there would be a "delivery/verification cost of \$3.50" to prove he had delivered to a person who was of legal drinking age. He had instructions to not leave the gift on the step for someone to steal, especially a minor. This sounded logical to the homeowner. The delivery man indicated payment must be by way of credit or debit card only, so everything was properly accounted for and he also noted he did not carry cash. Her husband standing beside her, provided the credit card, and put in his PIN # when asked. The delivery man gave them a receipt said everything was in order and left. Several days later they discovered a \$4,000.00 withdrawal from various ATM machines.

The "mobile credit card machine" which the delivery man carried now had all the necessary info to create a "dummy card" with all their credit card information, including the PIN number.

Moral of the story, the only time you should give out personal credit/debit card information is when you, yourself initiate the purchase or transaction and **ALWAYS BE WARY OF STRANGERS BEARING GIFTS !**