Champaign church reports scam

CHAMPAIGN — Police are investigating a suspected fraud in which someone claiming to be a minister's daughter took money from a Champaign church.

Officials at the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 401 E. Park St., C, reported that they were persuaded to send money to the woman for a car repair, according to Champaign police Lt. Jerry Gamble. The money came from a church account.

The church was recently called by a man who claimed to be a minister of another AME church and told the local church that his daughter was moving to Champaign, Gamble said.

On Monday, the local church was called by a woman claiming to be the minister's daughter. She said her car was broken down in Ohio. She asked the church to wire money for repairs to an address in Silver Springs, Md., which she claimed was the corporate office of the place where her car was supposedly being repaired, Gamble said.

The woman never showed up and the church then contacted police.

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