The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) is warning Chinese nationals studying in Canada about fraudulent callers claiming to be Chinese government officials in an effort to extort money from you and your family.

This scam, known as virtual kidnapping, tricks your family members into believing you have been kidnapped and may be harmed if they do not pay a ransom. To make this believable, the fraudsters will order you to not answer your phone or make contact with family or friends. You may be asked to take photos of yourself to provide to the fraudster.

Victims will be told that they are wanted for a crime in China and warned to avoid the Canadian police, who will arrest them if located.

Canadian police do not operate in this manner and are here to assist all visitors to Canada.

Do not comply with the caller’s demands.

Hang up the phone and report the incident to your local police.

Never give out personal information over the telephone.

Warn your loved ones about this elaborate fraud.