



A Message to Check Cashing Store Owners from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service

The United States Postal Inspection Service is requesting assistance from check cashing establishments when cashing U.S. Treasury and other business checks. The following are suggested procedures:

- Be vigilant when a customer opens a new account for the sole purpose of cashing U.S. Treasury and other checks.
- Require identification to cash U.S. Treasury and business checks. Ask for a second form of identification and consider using same verification process used to obtain IL State Identification or IL Driver's License (**request utility bill with home address to match address on check**)
- Scrutinize presented identification cards for signs of fraud. False identification cards are often printed on low grade card stock that is easily discernable from legitimate state-issued identifications.
- Scrutinize the payee line. Checks that are altered typically have telltale signs, such as loss of color or an abraded surface near the altered area. The altered area is usually the "pay to" line.
- Scrutinize the check value line. Again, the check could be altered as to raise the value, and the same discoloration and abraded surfaces will be apparent.
- Be wary of checks for excessive amounts.
- Please attempt to seize and do not honor any blatantly counterfeited or altered checks. Call local police and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service **1-877-876-2455**.
- For known customers, match customer's existing store account photograph with the identification presented during the stimulus check cashing.
- Be wary of any customer cashing more than one check, checks cashed from same neighborhood block or from another part of town.

BEST PRACTICES

Use of overt surveillance equipment for store and counter.
Checks endorsed in presence of cashier, including inked thumb print.
Include customer's phone number under endorsement and verify by calling.

If you have questions, concerns, or suspect fraud, call the U.S. Postal Inspection Service at 877-876-2455 (say "Law Enforcement") to speak

to a U.S. Postal Inspector.