



BAD CHECK CRIME REPORT

COOK COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

ANITA ALVAREZ

01/06/09

Bad Check Program Address:
P.O. Box A3984
Chicago, IL 60690-3984

Bad Check Program Contact:
(800) 365-2960 - Merchant Hotline
(800) 368-5199 - Check Writer Hotline
(Please refer check writer to the "check writer" hotline)

For more information: www.checkprogram.com/cookcountyl

Step
1

Confirm Eligibility

The following types of checks are ineligible for the program:

*Two-party checks	*Partially re-paid checks	*Fraudulent or stamped lost/stolen/forged
*Payroll, credit card or rent checks	*Post/pre dated or altered checks	*Checks you agreed to hold before depositing
*Checks passed outside of your county	*Checks which are repayment of loan or civil contract agreement	

Step
2

Victim Information

Victim/Merchant Name: _____

Contact Name: _____ **Title:** _____

Victim Contact Information: (Required) **Email:** _____

Phone:(_____) _____ **Fax:**(_____) _____

• **Email and/or fax are required for acknowledgement receipt of check and/or Program communication**

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Step
3

Check Writer Information

Check Writer's Name: _____

Address: _____ **Apt:** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Home Phone:(_____) _____ **Other Phone:**(_____) _____

Driver's License # / Other ID #: _____

State: _____ **Date of Birth:** ____/____/____

Other ID: (if applicable) _____

Courtesy notice must be sent to recover the bad check(s) in question. If no attempt has been made, the check is not eligible for prosecution. (See courtesy notice on back.)

Step
4

Check Information

<u>Ck. No.</u>	<u>Date Passed</u>	<u>\$ Amount</u>	<u>Name of person accepting check</u> <small>(if no longer employed please list manager)</small>	<u>Can person ID check writer?</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Address where check was accepted (if different than above in Step 2: _____) (Required)

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Step
5

Victim Verification

Sign & date

- I will not accept direct payment from the check writer after filing this report with the Program. Please refer check writer to (800) 368-5199.
- I understand that the check writer has the option to dispute this claim in writing with the Bad Check Program.
- If this crime report is not completely filled out it may prevent or delay this case from moving forward for prosecution review.
- I attest that I have sent notice to the check writer and after 10 days it remains unpaid.
- I have reviewed the filing instructions, I hereby affirm and attest under penalty of perjury, that all information provided on this crime report is true to the best of my knowledge.

X _____

Signature of Person Filing (Required)
Print Name of Person Filing
Date Filed

Additional crime reports are available at: www.checkprogram.com/cookcountyl

Staple original or bank-generated substitute check here

Sample "Courtesy Notice"

Date

Dear Check Writer:

You are hereby notified that a check numbered _____ in the face amount of \$ _____, issued by you on _____ drawn upon _____ bank, and payable to _____, has been dishonored. You have 10 days from receipt of this notice to tender payment of the full amount of such check plus a transaction fee of \$ _____, the total amount due being \$ _____.

Unless this amount is paid in full within the time specified above, we may turn over the dishonored check and all other available information relative to this incident to the State's Attorney's Office for potential criminal prosecution.

Closing,

Your name/address

Transaction Fee

The fees authorized pursuant to Illinois Compiled Statutes Section 720 ILCS 5/17-1b(h) to defray the costs and expenses incurred by a victim of a dishonored check.

The amount of the transaction fee must not exceed: \$25 if the face amount of the check or draft does not exceed \$100; \$30 if the face amount of the check or draft is greater than \$100 but does not exceed \$250; \$35 if the face amount of the check or draft is greater than \$250 but does not exceed \$500; \$40 if the face amount of the check or draft is greater than \$500 but does not exceed \$1,000; and \$50 if the face amount of the check or draft is greater than \$1,000.

Bad Check Program Information

As a victim of a bad check you may file this report with the Cook County State's Attorney, provided there is sufficient information, and that the check meets all eligibility guidelines. The Cook County State's Attorney's Office will seek full restitution for victims whenever possible; however, please keep in mind that the Bad Check Restitution Program can make no recovery guarantees. By submitting the check to the program you surrender control of the check to criminal process and forego the opportunity to pursue civil debt collections at the same time.

Check writers are encouraged to make payments in full. Should a partial payment be received, the payment will be allocated between the victim and the Bad Check Program. "Restitution" refers to the face value of all checks listed on this report.

A check will be deemed ineligible and returned to you to pursue a civil remedy, if a filed check is later determined to be:

- A stop payment check where the issuer acted in good faith and with reasonable cause in stopping payment,
- A check issued by someone not competent or of legal age,
- A check dishonored due to bank error or failure to notify the check writer of bank adjustment of a check,
- A check issued to pay an obligation arising from an illegal transaction.

What to do after my crime report is filed with the Program

- Please **do not** accept direct payments from check writers. Should the check writer contact you to make payment, refer them to the Check Writer Hotline at (800) 368-5199.
- You may contact Merchant Care for case updates at (800) 365-2960 at anytime.
- Please allow a minimum of 90 days to pursue restitution.
- If the check writer does not comply with the Program, the case may be reviewed for possible criminal prosecution.
- If we are unable to recover restitution and/or the check is not "eligible" for prosecution, you may request the check(s) be returned to pursue a civil remedy.

Filing Instructions

1. Fill out Report Completely.
2. Attach checks and all supporting documents such as CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT OR UNDELIVERED LETTER, COPY OF "COURTESY NOTICE," ETC.
3. Mail Bad Check Crime Report and all other correspondence to:
Cook County Bad Check Restitution Program
P.O. Box A3984, Chicago, IL 60690-3984
4. Once a report has been filed: ALL restitution payments must be coordinated by the State's Attorney's Office. Should the check writer contact you to make payment, direct them to the Bad Check Restitution Program at (800) 368-5199.
DO NOT ACCEPT PAYMENT DIRECTLY FROM CHECK WRITER.