

## A Message from Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Each year, Los Angeles County merchants lose millions of dollars to bad check writers. In an effort to reduce those losses, the District Attorney's Office established the Bad Check Restitution Program, which allows bad check writers to pay full restitution to their victims in lieu of criminal prosecution. This program has returned more than \$30 million to victims at absolutely no cost to victims or taxpayers.

The Bad Check Restitution Program offers first-time offenders an opportunity to make restitution without facing criminal charges. They must attend a mandatory diversion class and pay all program-related fees. If they fail to comply, their cases are reviewed for possible criminal prosecution. Upon conviction, bad check writers may be sentenced to county jail or state prison and still have to pay a court-imposed fine and full restitution.

The Bad Check Restitution Program is a partnership between Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office and the local business community. It is fully funded through fees paid by bad check writers. To learn more about this program or to file a complaint, visit our website at <http://da.lacounty.gov/badcheck.htm> or call 1-800-842-0733.

The Bad Check Restitution Program is being administered by CorrectiveSolutions on behalf of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

## Los Angeles County District Attorney Bad Check Restitution Program

### The program works because...

- Bad check forms are easy to file, and follow-up action is prompt.
- Upon recovery, 100% of the face value of the check is returned to the victim.
- There is no minimum dollar restriction on a bad check.
- Offenders must complete an educational class at their expense.
- The program operates at **no cost** to the county or taxpayers.

### Los Angeles County District Attorney Bad Check Restitution Program

P.O. Box 86407  
Los Angeles, CA 90086-0407  
(postal address only)

<http://da.lacounty.gov/badcheck.htm>

**1-800-842-0733**

Brochure not printed at taxpayer expense.

# BAD CHECKS

## Bad for Business Bad for Los Angeles



Los Angeles County  
District Attorney's Office  
Bad Check Restitution Program

## Check Acceptance Tips:

- Institute a check acceptance policy. A clearly posted policy for your employees and customers can reduce your losses.
- Accept checks written only with today's date. Post-dated checks are civil matters and are not accepted in the Los Angeles County District Attorney Bad Check Restitution Program.
- Trust your instincts! If something doesn't seem right, ask questions or ask for another form of payment. You are not obligated to accept a check.

John and Jane Doe  
123 Fair Lane  
Smalltown, ST 12345

123-444-5555

1 2 3 4 5 6

Pay to the order of Friendly Business \$ 100.00

One Hundred and 00/100 Dollars

⌘ BANK

Memo 1234567891234 100

Signature

Date 05/11/2011

## Check Screening Tips:

1. Make sure that the address is a street address, not just a P.O. Box number. Write down the street address if there is only a P.O. Box address provided.
2. Ask for and write down a phone number. If the phone number is provided on the check, verify that it is correct.
3. Note the check's date. Post dated checks are not acceptable.
4. Be wary of new accounts with low check numbers.
5. Make sure that the written and figure amounts match.
6. Observe the writer's signature and make sure the signature matches the one on the I.D.

# Los Angeles County District Attorney Bad Check Restitution Program

## How to Determine a Check's Eligibility for the Program

### A check is **ELIGIBLE** if...

- It was received in Los Angeles County, deposited in a bank in exchange for goods or services and was presumed "good" at the time of acceptance.
- There are no minimum restrictions based on dollar amount.
- A "Courtesy Notice" was sent to check writer allowing 10 days to make check good.
- A photo I.D. number (driver's license, military I.D., or state identification card) was recorded at the time of transaction.

### A check is **INELIGIBLE** if:

- It is post-dated.
- Both parties knew there were insufficient funds at the time of transaction.
- It is an out-of-state, payroll, rent, two-party, or government check.
- The identity of the check writer is unknown.
- There is no amount, date, or signature on the check.
- The check involves an "extension of credit" or was payment on an account.
- The check has not been processed by a bank.

## The Program, Step-by-Step

1. Make personal contact with the check writer. If you are unsuccessful, send a courtesy notice. The check writer has 10 days to respond and remit payment.
2. If you do not hear from the check writer or receive payment, contact the Bad Check Restitution Program at **1-800-842-0733** or visit our website for a complaint form at <http://da.lacounty.gov/badcheck.htm>.
3. Fill out the complaint form, keep copies and attach originals of all checks and notification documents, such as return receipts and bank notices, and mail to the address below.
4. If you do not receive restitution within 90 days, contact the Los Angeles County District Attorney Bad Check Restitution Program.

## Los Angeles County District Attorney Bad Check Restitution Program

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Los Angeles, CA 90086-0407  
(postal address only)

Questions or have a check to file?

Go to  
<http://da.lacounty.gov/badcheck.htm>

or call  
**1-800-842-0733**

Checks ineligible for the District Attorney  
Bad Check Restitution Program may be pursued  
via Small Claims Court process or by  
a private collection agency.