

STATE OF ALABAMA

BLOUNT COUNTY



Dear Merchant/Citizen,

The mission of the Blount County District Attorney's Worthless Check Unit is to prevent losses to Blount County citizens and merchants from worthless checks.

Our Check Unit is staffed by professionals who have been very successful in recovering money for Merchants/Citizens like you. We use a multitude of collection methods including written and telephone communications, personal contact, arrest, and court action. We work with the Blount County Sheriff's Office to target bad check writers and have produced direct results.

Why use the Worthless Check Unit instead of a private check collection agency?

1. We do not charge a fee for our services.
2. We do not take a share or cut of your restitution or service charge.
3. You are not required to sign an exclusive contract with us.
4. Your service is not restricted based on the volume or amount of checks you refer to us.
5. There is no purchase or lease of expensive hardware or equipment.
6. We make no false or misleading guarantees about recovery.

We appreciate your consideration and use of our free services. If you have any questions or need forms, decals, information, or other assistance, please call us. Of course, we welcome your input and feedback.

Sincerely,

Catherine Foster
Worthless Check Administrator

Phone 205/625-6847 Fax 205/625-3729 Website: www.blountda.com

**BLOUNT COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
WORTHLESS CHECK UNIT
BLOUNT COUNTY COURTHOUSE
220 2nd Avenue East
Oneonta, Alabama 35121
205-625-6847**

The Worthless Check Unit of the Blount County District Attorney's Office helps businesses minimize bad check losses. When the Worthless Check Unit successfully makes a recovery for a victim, we return to the merchant, as restitution, 100% of the check amount plus the statutory merchant service charge. The Law also requires the bad check writer to pay a fee to cover our costs of enforcing Alabama's Worthless Check Laws. This service is backed by the Judicial System of Alabama.

To use the Worthless Check Unit's services, the following procedures should be followed.

- A. Know who is writing the check. Accept only government issued identification cards with pictures.
- B. Make sure the check has correct address and phone numbers for the person writing the check (make corrections to address/phone # on check).
- C. Write the number of the identification card used on the check and date of birth.
- D. Cash the check in a timely manner.

If a check is not honored by the bank, take the following steps for collection.

Fill out a **Statutory Notice** form and make a copy, (you may obtain a Notice form from our website; blountda.com). Send the original **Statutory Notice** to the person who wrote the check at the address on the check by certified mail return receipt. (**A STATUTORY NOTICE IS NOT REQUIRED FOR A CLOSED ACCOUNT**)

Keep the **copy** of the **Statutory Notice** with the returned check from the bank. If the CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIPT is returned signed, give 10 days to the check writer to bring you the face value of the check plus a \$30.00 processing fee before filing a case with the District Attorney's Worthless Check Unit. If the letter is returned for any reason, **do not open** the letter and you do not need to give any time to file a worthless check charge with the District Attorney's Worthless Check Unit. Bring the returned check, the copy of the **Statutory Notice** and the **signed receipt** or the **unopened certified letter** to the Worthless Check Unit. (**ON A CLOSED ACCOUNT BRING CHECK ONLY**) The Worthless Check Unit will then print a warrant to sign at the Clerk's office and then procedures will start for collection.

The Worthless Check Unit can **not** collect for the following:

1. Two party checks.
2. Post dated checks.
3. Checks written by a minor
4. Checks in which partial payment has been collected.
5. A check over 1 year old before a warrant is signed.
6. A check taken outside of Blount County.
7. Checks sent to a private agency for collection.

STATUTORY NOTICE

DATE: _____

TO: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

This statutory notice is provided pursuant to Section 13A-9-13.2 of the Alabama Code. You are hereby notified that the check or instrument listed below has been dishonored:

CHECK NUMBER: _____

DATE OF ISSUE: _____

NAME OF BANK: _____

AMOUNT OF CHECK: _____

SERVICE CHARGE: \$ 30.00

TOTAL DUE: _____

Pursuant to Alabama Law, you have ten (10) days from the date you receive this notice to pay the full amount of this check or instrument plus the service charge allowed by the State (The maximum amount of the service charge is currently \$30.00).

If the total amount due is not paid in full within the specified time, the holder of the check or instrument may assume that you delivered the instrument with intent to defraud, and may turn over the dishonored instrument and all other available information relating to this incident to the proper authorities for criminal prosecution.

CONTACT THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS OR INDIVIDUAL:

FROM: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

NOTE: WE WILL NOT ACCEPT PARTIAL PAYMENT TOWARD A BAD CHECK