

**A MESSAGE
FROM THE SOLICITOR,**

Solicitor Wilson's Worthless Check program operates as a diversion program within the Solicitor's Office to provide for the collection and distribution of restitution to victims. The program transfers the collection process from the victim to the Solicitor's Office, thereby eliminating much of the victim's time and expenses associated with collecting on bad checks.

Participation by a victim in the Worthless Check Program is FREE. Victims decide which bad checks to submit to us for collection.

The Worthless Check program is operated as a self-sustaining Unit within the Ninth Judicial Circuit Diversion Services Department. All Diversion Service programs are under the control and supervision of Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson. Operational costs are recovered from the offenders, not victims and taxpayers.

Scarlett A. Wilson
Ninth Circuit Solicitor

**Ninth Circuit Solicitor's Diversion
Services Program**

Charleston County
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www.scsolicitor9.org/wcu.php

WORTHLESS CHECK UNIT



What is Worthless Check Unit?

The Solicitor's Worthless Check Unit was created to collect restitution for victims of bad check writers. The program is designed to reduce the burden of collecting payment on bad checks by assisting merchants and small businesses of Charleston County. The program aims to conserve law enforcement resources and to educate worthless check writers about the consequences of their crimes.

This is a FREE service at no cost to victims who receive worthless checks.

Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson
Ninth Circuit Solicitor's Office
101 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC 29401

Worthless Check Unit

WCU Program Requirements:

Checks that qualify for the WCU are those:

- Given for labor (payroll checks) or personal services.
- Given as payment for merchandise, cash, or services.
- Deposited by victim within ten (10) days of receipt.
- Returned by the bank due to:
 - insufficient funds
 - closed account
 - frozen or blocked accounts
 - unable to locate accounts
 - stop payment order(As long as there is no dispute between two parties)
- Received in Charleston County

Note: In order to accept business checks, owner name and contact information must be provided.

The WCU will:

- Mail all correspondence.
- Collect restitution, service fees, and all other fines and assessments.
- Disburse restitution and service fees to victims.
- Prosecute bad check writers if they do not pay restitution and costs.

The WCU cannot process:

- Bad checks that were post-dated.
- Bad checks involving an agreement to “hold” the check.
- Bad checks when the person accepting the check had reason to believe the check was not good at time of receipt.
- Forged or stolen checks, checks drawn on fictitious accounts, or checks with signature irregularities.
- Checks that do not have a check header.

WCU Collection Procedure

When you receive a worthless check and it meets program requirements, you can submit the check and victim complaint form to the Solicitor’s Office for collection. This relieves you of the burden of the traditional collection and prosecution process.

WCU Prosecution Procedure

When the Worthless Check Unit receives a bad check complaint and restitution is not made in accordance with the legal requirements, a criminal charge will be filed. The Solicitor has full statutory discretion concerning the prosecution of worthless check complaints.

Payments to Victims

When full restitution for a worthless check is made, a check from the Worthless Check Unit will be sent directly to victims for the full amount of the check plus all legally approved service charges. Victims must notify our office of address in order to receive mailed restitution payments.

Caution: Once you submit a worthless check to the Solicitor’s Check Unit, **DO NOT ACCEPT PAYMENTS IN ANY FORM FROM THE CHECK WRITER.** This will void collection and prosecution efforts. All contacts with the check writer concerning the worthless check must be made by the Solicitor’s Worthless Check Unit.

Forms can be printed from our website.

