

## WHAT IS THE SOLICITOR'S WORTHLESS CHECK PROGRAM?

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 9<sup>th</sup> 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.**

## 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
  - stop payment order
- Received in Charleston County

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

## 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.

**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.

## 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 your worthless check complaint.

## PAYMENTS TO VICTIMS

When **full** restitution for a worthless check is made, a check from the Worthless Check Unit will be sent directly to you for the full amount of the check *plus* all legally approved service charges.

In the event you change your address after submitting a worthless check for collection, please notify our office.

## DISCOURAGING WORTHLESS CHECKS

The Solicitor's Worthless Check Unit offers color 3" x 4" and 8" x 11" signs for you to post at your business to help discourage people from writing worthless checks. **You decide** which bad checks you submit to us.

Visit our website at: [www.scsolicitor9.org](http://www.scsolicitor9.org)

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**A bad check writer's failure to pay restitution could result in their arrest and prosecution.**



**Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson**

**WORTHLESS CHECK UNIT**  
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Though theft with a pen is more subtle  
than theft with a weapon;  
it is still theft and an unfair loss to you.

**A FREE service for Victims of Worthless Checks**

## NINTH CIRCUIT SOLICITOR'S 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.