

SOLICITOR'S WORTHLESS CHECK UNIT CLAIM FILING AND PROCESS

The Worthless Check Unit (WCU) is the newest unit in the 9th Judicial Circuit's Diversion Services. The program was initiated by Solicitor Scarlett Wilson in 2009 to support business interests in our community. It is a self-sustaining program maintained by fees required of the worthless check writers. Investigation and collection is done by the Worthless check unit staff daily. All check writers located by WCU are given the opportunity to make full and speedy restitution to the victim. **This is a totally free service to individual and business Victims of bad checks.** By giving check writers the opportunity to pay before the legal process, *the victim* avoids what often becomes a costly and lengthy process to have their monies returned to them. As soon as the check writer makes the total restitution payment, the full face value of the worthless check and any statutorily approved service charges will be sent directly to the victim. If restitution is not made within the given legal time frame, a criminal charge is filed by the Solicitor's Office who has full statutory discretion concerning the prosecution of the worthless check complaint.

What kinds of Checks Qualify?

Checks that are;

- Received in Charleston County
- Given for labor or personal services
- Given in payment of merchandise, cash and/or services
- Deposited within 10 days of receipt
- Returned by the bank due to insufficient funds, stop payment or account closed

Checks that DO NOT qualify are;

- Post dated
- With an agreement to "hold" at time of transaction
- Victim had reason to believe the check was worthless upon receipt
- Irregular signature
- Forgery, stolen, or fictitious account

Note: Checks that *do not qualify for WCU* may be a violation of another law and will be prosecuted pursuant to the appropriate statute.

To file a claim, simply complete the Victim vendor worksheet (printable on the preceding page) and attach the original check to the document. You may mail or deliver the items to our office at 101 Meeting St. Suite 230 Downtown Charleston. For further information, call WCU at 843-958-2040.