

# State of South Carolina

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**SCARLETT A. WILSON**

*Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit*

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Previous Clients of the Charleston County Worthless Check Unit

FROM: Solicitor Scarlett Wilson *AW*

RE: Discontinuing the Worthless Check Unit

DATE: January 13, 2021

Many years ago, when the legislature gave Solicitors the authority to create Worthless Check Units (WCUs), it did not provide funding for WCU operations. The idea was that the bad check writers would pay fees that covered the cost and operation of WCUs. For quite some time, such fees were enough to cover the costs of operating the WCU in Charleston County. In the past few years, however, citizens and businesses have written and accepted fewer and fewer checks. This has led to a decline in the number of "worthless" checks processed and the amount of fees collected by the WCU. For several years, Charleston County allowed the Unit to operate at a deficit so that we could provide you this service. In light of the increase in the WCU deficit and looming budget concerns, operating a deficit is no longer an option and we have to discontinue this service.

Thank you for entrusting us to assist in collecting restitution for you. Our WCU has worked tirelessly to collect restitution for the victims and to hold bad check writers accountable for the harm they do. We will continue accepting new claims for worthless checks until January 30, 2021, and we will see the pending cases through to their conclusion. If you are the victim of a worthless check writer after January 30, you may consider proceeding under South Carolina's bad check law (South Carolina Code §34-11-60). Unless all requirements for using the law are met, however, you could be subjecting yourself to a lawsuit if the maker of the check is arrested and it is later determined that the matter should not have been brought under the bad check law.