

Check Scams: What to look out for

Some believe that checks are becoming obsolete because we mainly use debit and credit cards and mobile pay. However, checks are still used every day. Unfortunately, there are those fraudsters out there that prey on others using fraudulent checks.

If you deposit or cash a fraudulent check, you may be responsible for paying back all funds from that check.

To reduce the chance of you becoming a victim of a check scam, please remember the following red flags. If you receive a check in this manner, either destroy the check or speak with a representative from your credit union before depositing or cashing the check.

Red Flags:

- Received in the mail without knowing why
- Received for online work you have not done yet
- Made out for a larger amount than you sold an item for, whether or not they request those extra funds back
- It is from a company or person that you do not know
- It is for someone else, but has your name on it
- You are instructed to take the money and buy gift cards
- You are instructed to take the money and perform a person-to-person transfer

These red flags do not represent a complete list, nor do they mean the check is always a fraudulent check. Th

e red flags are to make you and the financial institution question the check to make sure you are protected from fraudsters. If you choose to bring the check in to Community First, a hold may be placed on the funds to help protect you.

As always, Community First is here to help and will gladly answer any questions you have about any check you receive.

More Resources:

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-spot-avoid-and-report-fake-check-scams>

<https://www.usa.gov/common-scams-frauds>

<https://www.mycreditunion.gov/fraud-prevention-center/scams>

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This information has been prepared for general informational purposes only and is not offered as and does not constitute legal advice.