



SCAM
ALERT

FAKE CHECK SCAMS

Fake check scams are on the rise in the midst of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic due to the issuance of government stimulus payments and tax return checks. Scam predators are sending fake checks and making false promises, such as being able to get you your money faster, accidentally sending more money than expected, or requiring a small fee. ***These are all scams!***

The Better Business Bureau (BBB), Federal Trade Commission (FTC), Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and well-known banking institutions offer warning signs to help you identify and avoid this type of scam.

If you are suspicious about a check or offer you have received, ask yourself:

- ▶ Is the check or offer for more money than you expected?
- ▶ Are you directed to act quickly to make the deposit and return the “overage” portion of the money?
- ▶ Did you receive specific instructions on how to deposit the check?
- ▶ Are you asked to send a prepaid fee or any money back using a money order, gift card, wire transfer or mobile payment?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, do not deposit the check or accept the offer. It can take weeks for a bank to confirm a fake check once it is deposited, and you may lose the amount of the check plus any money you sent to the scam predator. Call your bank before you act!

Note: You may report scam predators to the FTC, BBB, Adult Protective Services (APS), Office of the Inspector General and the Federal Bureau of Investigation Internet Crime Complaint Center.

If you think you may be a victim of a scam, contact
San Bernardino County APS at 1 (877) 565-2020
or your local police department.