



Los Angeles County District Attorney
Bad Check Restitution Program
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News Release

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BAD CHECK RESTITUTION PROGRAM**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley is concerned about the impact of bad checks passed to local businesses. To combat the problem, the District Attorney's Office has organized the **Bad Check Restitution Program** which aids merchants in the recovery of losses associated with returned checks and holds check writers accountable for their actions. The program is a more efficient way to handle bad check offenders thus reducing the caseload for our already overburdened criminal court system.

There is no cost involved for merchants who use the program. Operating funds come from statutory fees charged only to the check writers. ***No tax dollars are used for this unique program!***

When faced with a bad check, the merchant must attempt to notify the check writer and allow a minimum 10-day grace period for the check to be paid. If the check writer fails to respond, the merchant can file a complaint with the District Attorney's program up to 120 days after the transaction. There are no minimum or maximum dollar amount restrictions.

Check writers reported to the program must pay restitution and attend an 8-hour intervention class to avoid criminal prosecution. Class attendance is mandatory and helps the offender learn to deal with issues that contribute to irresponsible behavior. Cases on bad check writers who fail to comply with all requirements of the program are reviewed for a possible criminal filing.

For further information on the **Bad Check Restitution Program**, please call the **Victim Hotline: (800) 842-0733**. Additionally, program supplies such as forms to report bad checks, suggestions on how to accept a check, and "Bad Check Writers Beware" warning posters or stickers may be ordered free of cost.
<http://da.co.la.ca.us/badcheck.htm>