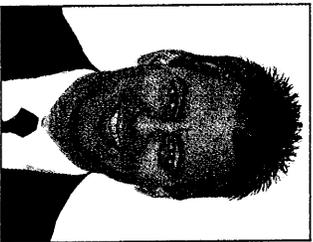


A Message From Brian T. Gensel Prosecuting Attorney



The Porter County Prosecuting Attorney's Office is concerned about the negative impact that "bad checks" have on our local businesses.

Merchants lose millions of dollars every year as a result of this ongoing problem. Bad checks affect everyone because of higher consumer costs which merchants must pass on to offset their losses, and because additional costs of law enforcement and prosecution often result in increased taxes for merchants and consumers.

In an effort to combat this serious problem, we have organized the bad check restitution program to assist local merchants with bad check losses. Our primary goal is to create a self-supporting system that obtains restitution for the victim while deterring repeat offenders.

First time bad check offenders are given the opportunity to avoid criminal prosecution by attending a mandatory intervention class and paying restitution. All of this is accomplished without any cost to the taxpayers.

Your interest and participation in this special program will not only benefit your business, but will also benefit the citizens of Porter County.

Cutting Your Losses

As Easy As 1-2-3

1. Make personal contact with the check writer; if you are unsuccessful, send a certified notice. The check writer has 10 days to respond and remit payment.
2. If you do not hear from the check writer or receive payment, simply contact the Bad Check Restitution Program at 1-866-889-5701 for a crime report or visit our website at www.checkprogram.com/portercountryin.
3. Fill out the crime report, attach originals (you retain photocopies) of all checks and notification documents, such as return receipts and bank notices, and mail to:

**Porter County
Prosecuting Attorney
Bad Check**

Restitution Program
P.O. Box 1217
Valparaiso, IN 46383-1217

If you do not receive restitution within 60 days, contact the Porter County Prosecuting Attorney
Bad Check Restitution Program.

1-866-889-5701

The Porter County Prosecuting Attorney Bad Check Restitution Program Works Because...

- Bad check crime reports are easy to file and follow-up action is prompt.
- Upon recovery, 100% of the face value of the check is returned to the merchant.
- There is no minimum dollar restriction.
- Bad check offenders must complete an educational class at their expense.
- The program operates at no cost to the county or the taxpayers.