

What is the Bad Check Program?

- The Bad Check Program is a service of the Lebanon County District Attorney's office which allows people who have written checks that have bounced to pay off those checks and any other fees that go along with them before anyone files a warrant or criminal summons.

Why should people take part in the Bad Check Program?

- People who take part in the program avoid prosecution. They will have no records for the checks they pay off within the Bad Check Program. If they do not take advantage of the opportunity to pay off the checks, they may still be prosecuted.

Why is the Bad Check Program good for Lebanon County?

- The Bad Check Program frees up significant time for clerks, prosecutors and judges by reducing the number of bad check cases requiring court time and saves time for magistrates and law enforcement officers by reducing the number of warrants being issued and served.

How does the Bad Check Program work?

- A merchant who has had a check returned first has to try and collect without going to the DA's office. The merchant usually documents this by sending a certified letter. After that, completes a [Bad Check Crime Report](#) and mails it to the District Attorney's Office.

Once received by the District Attorney's Office, the information contained on the Report is reviewed by the staff and if eligible, entered into the Bad Check Program. Once entered, a notice is mailed to the writer of the Bad Check informing them of the requirements for participation. The notice lets the writer know that he may be liable for criminal prosecution and that he or she can avoid this if he pays the invoice. If the writer of the check fails to complete the requirements, criminal prosecution may be initiated.

What types of checks are eligible?

- While most checks are eligible for the Bad Check Program, the following types of checks are ineligible:
 - Two-Party Checks
 - Credit Card Checks
 - Checks passed outside of Lebanon County
 - Partially re-paid checks
 - Post-dated, Pre-dated, or altered checks
 - Fraudulent or stamped lost/stolen/forged checks
 - Checks where the payee agreed to hold before depositing

What other fees have to be paid for participation in the Bad Check Program?

- In addition to the face value of the check, the following fees are assessed as a condition of the Bad Check Program:
 - \$25.00 Merchant fee:** Flat fee to provide partial reimbursement for any bank, collections, or postage fees incurred as a result of the bad check which, after completion of the program, is paid to the merchant who received the bad check.
 - \$25.00 Administration fee:** Flat fee to provide partial reimbursement for any collections, postage, and administrative fees incurred as a result of the bad check which, after completion of the program, is paid to the County of Lebanon.
 - \$45/\$75/\$125 Class Fee:** Variable fee based upon the face value of the bad check to provide partial reimbursement for the cost of investigation and prosecution of Bad Checks which, after completion of the program, is paid to the County of Lebanon.

What if the check-writer wishes to pay off part of the invoice?

- When a merchant refers a check to the Bad Check Program, he agrees to allow the program to collect all fees. This means that the merchant agrees specifically not to collect partial payments.