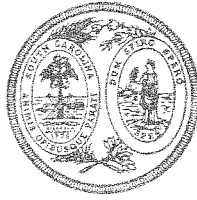


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Solicitor
W. Walter Wilkins

Press Release

For Immediate Release
February 28, 2011

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins announced today that his office will begin a Worthless Check Unit on March 1, 2011. The purpose of the Unit will be to collect monies on bad checks written to local businesses and to distribute restitution to the victims. It transfers the collection process from the victim to the Solicitor's Office, eliminating the victim's time and cost associated with trying to collect on bad checks.

The program is under the control and supervision of the Solicitor's Office. It is self sustaining, with costs covered by fines collected on the bad checks. It also lessens the need for warrants, freeing law enforcement to deal with other crimes.

When a business receives a worthless check and it meets certain legal requirements, the check can be submitted along with a victim/vendor worksheet form to the Solicitor's Office for collection. The Solicitor's Worthless Check Unit will contact the check writer, collect restitution and disburse payment to the victim. If restitution is not made pursuant to the requirements of the program, the check writer will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

"We are looking forward to providing a valuable service to the business community in Greenville County," stated Wilkins. "Bad checks are not a victimless crime and in the current economic climate; no one can afford to write off a bad check."

Further information on the Program and Worthless Check Worksheets can be located and down loaded from the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit website.