

Sight Review Training

Identifying Altered & Counterfeit Checks

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Stopping Counterfeit & Altered Checks in the “Sight Review” process

Counterfeit & Altered Checks

1. MOST counterfeit checks DO NOT look like a customer's actual check stock.
2. Altered Checks' check stock always looks exactly like other authentic checks.
3. Fraudsters are beating Positive Pay & Payee Positive Pay. Positive Pay IS NOT 100% effective 100% of the time!
4. **Sight Review:** Keep Dollar Threshold LOW to help create the basis for making a Check 21 Indemnity claim against the BOFD.

Common Characteristics of Altered Checks

1. Check stock looks exactly the same as other checks that have paid against the account.
2. The face and especially the back of the check look exactly like other paid checks.
3. Check Numbers are very often in the same range as other paid checks.
4. Signature looks very deliberate, like it was traced over a copy of the original check.
5. Laser printed checks may show signs of scraping or erasures around the payee name.

Common Characteristics of Counterfeit Checks

1. Checks with serial numbers 150+ higher than the current check number range. Banks use software to track # range. DO NOT IGNORE!
2. Duplicate Check Numbers (going back 6 years).
3. Checks with Dollar Amounts higher than normal for that account.
4. High-volume of checks (out-of-pattern) being presented for payment. Banks use software to track & compare historical volume activity.

Sight Review of High-Dollar Checks

#1. Keep Sight Review Dollar threshold LOW

#2. “Late Return” vs. Fed’s Midnight Deadline

- **ALWAYS** Return the check as a “late return”
- BOFD likely placed a **7-day hold** on the deposit

- Most Counterfeit Checks are \$2300 - \$2400
- Recommended Sight Review \$ thresholds: \$2000 - \$5000
- NEVER Stop Sight Review: Positive Pay, Payee Positive Pay are not 100% effective 100% of the time!

Sight Review Procedures

1. **Focus** on the check stock design – Compare Front & Back
2. **Compare** inclearing check against 2-3 known good checks
3. **Face**: Compare the check **borders, edges, corners**
4. **Back**: Compare **Indorsement** area, **security features box**
5. **Comparing Signatures** **IS NOT reliable** – fraudsters scan original signatures and place them on blank check stock (or white 28# paper) purchased from office supply stores.

Examples of Counterfeit & Real Checks

5 Areas to Compare

FIVE Areas to Compare - Check Stock Design

Counterfeit



1. Corners

2. Borders

3. Hologram
shape – are
the corners
Rounded or
Square?

Original



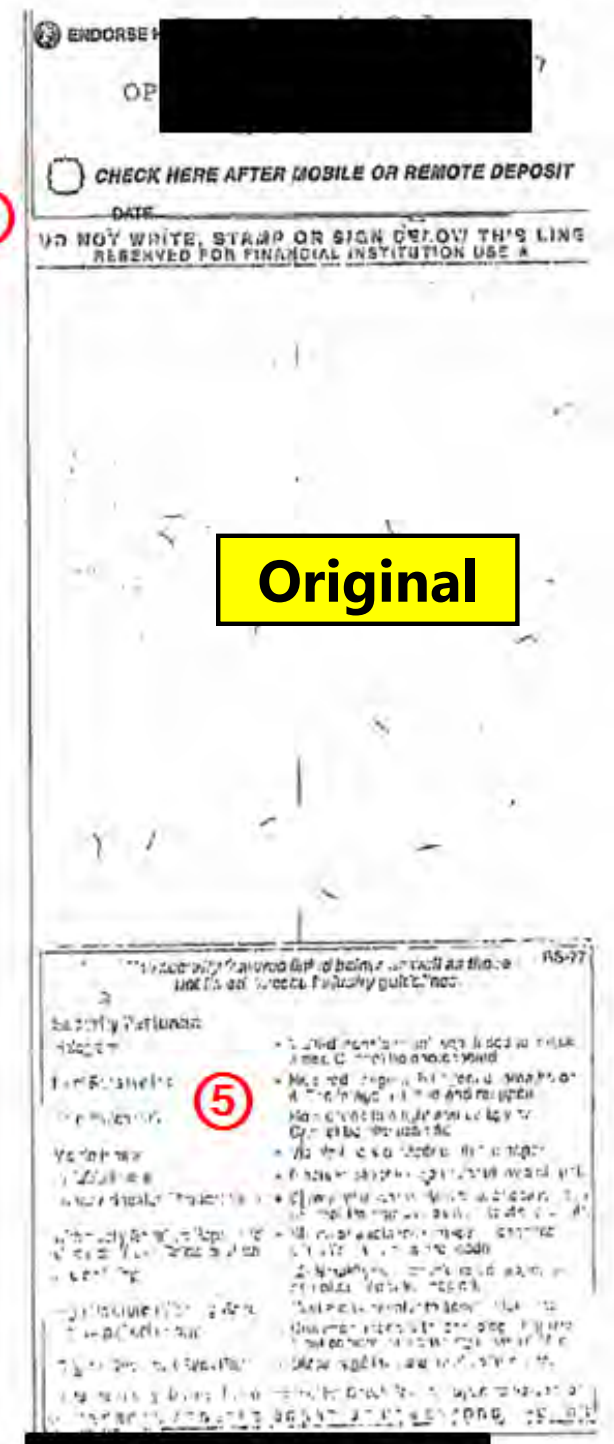
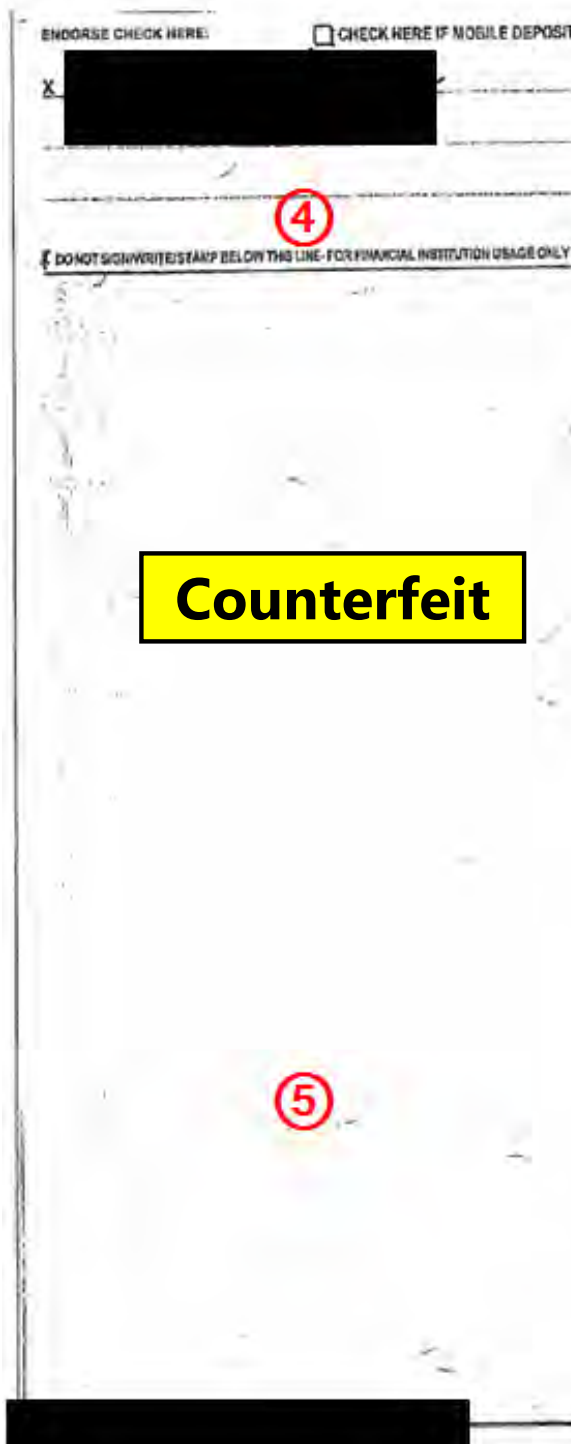
FIVE Areas to Compare - Check Stock Design

4. Indorsement area

5. Security features area

If Back is completely white be very suspicious!!

ALL real checks have printing on the back.

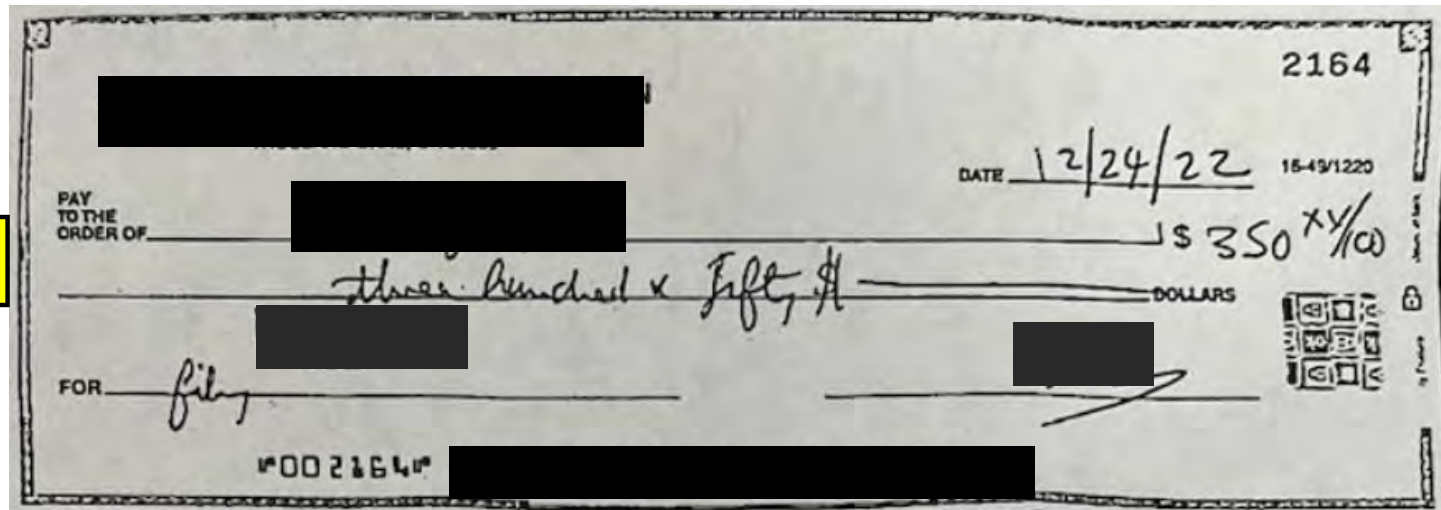


Face

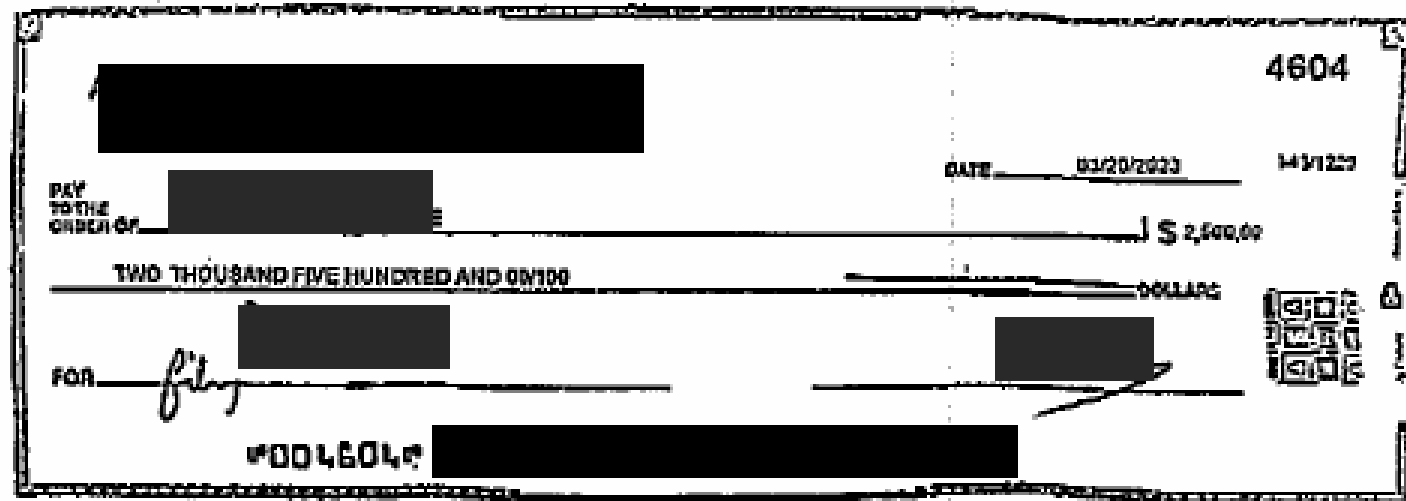
Original = handwritten

①

Original



Counterfeit = computer generated

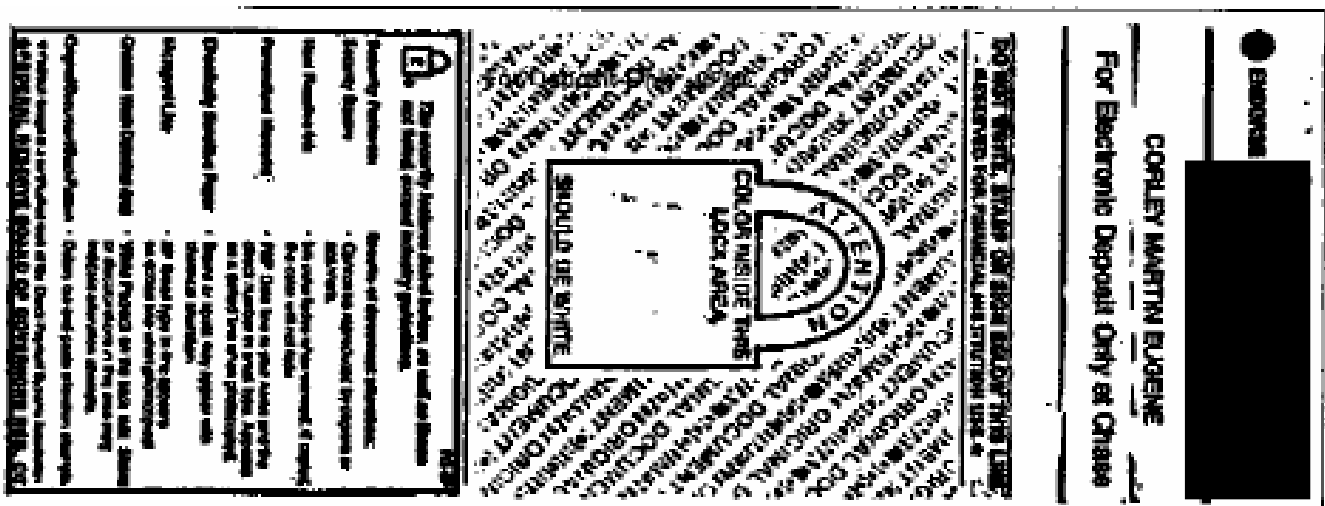
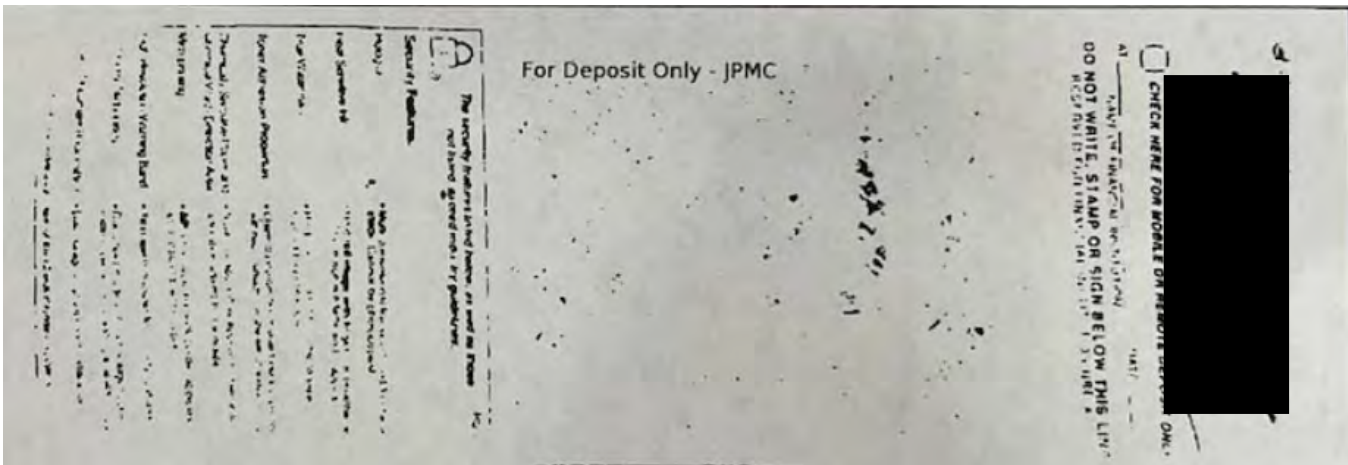


Counterfeit

Back is different

Original

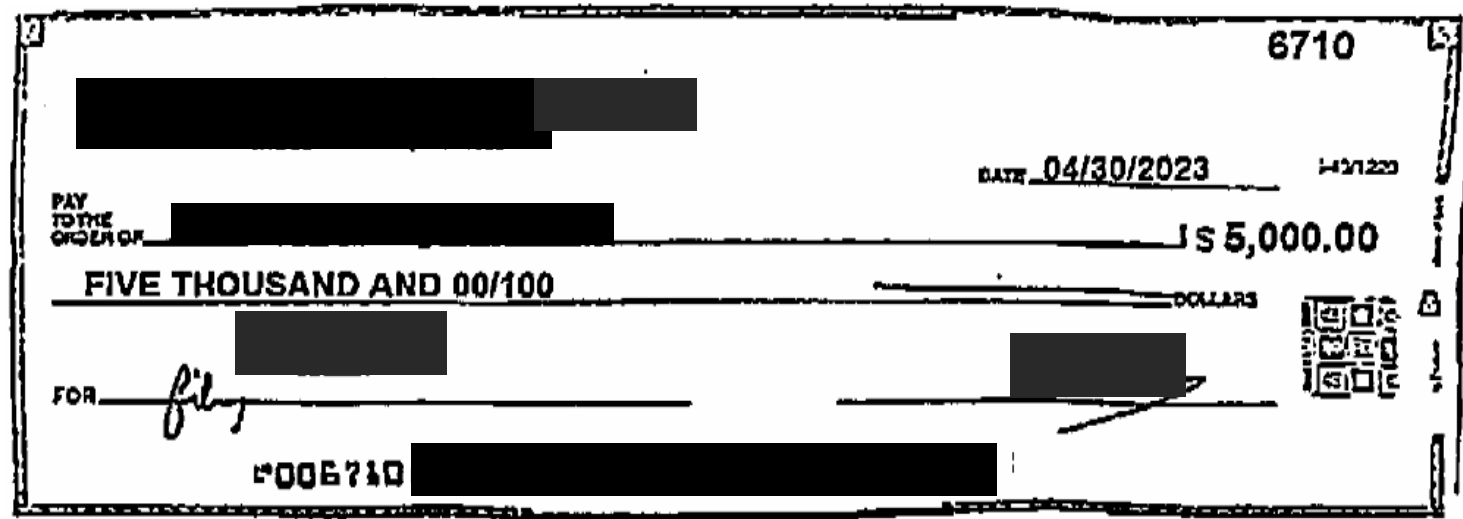
1



Counterfeit

Original

2



Counterfeit

Back is different

Original

For Deposit Only - JPMC

DO NOT WRITE, STAMP OR SIGN BELOW THIS LINE
RECORDATION NUMBER, REVISIONS

CHECK HERE FOR MOBILE OR REMOTE DEPOSIT ONLY
AT [REDACTED]

Security Features

The security features listed below are not to be used for identification purposes only. They are to be used for identification purposes only.

Security Features

1. The security features listed below are not to be used for identification purposes only. They are to be used for identification purposes only.

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10. The security features listed below are not to be used for identification purposes only. They are to be used for identification purposes only.

2

DO NOT WRITE, STAMP OR SIGN BELOW THIS LINE
RECORDATION NUMBER, REVISIONS

FOR ELECTRONIC DEPOSIT ONLY
AT BANK OF AMERICA

DO NOT WRITE, STAMP OR SIGN BELOW THIS LINE
RECORDATION NUMBER, REVISIONS

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Counterfeit

Counterfeit

CHECK DATE

20-Oct-2021

CHECK NUMBER

00322444

CHECK AMOUNT

\$

PAY TO THE
ORDER OF

Void After 180 Days

Corners are different

Original Check Stock

CHECK DATE

20-Oct-2021

CHECK NUMBER

00322443

CHECK AMOUNT

PAY TO THE
ORDER OF

Void After 180 Days

3

Counterfeit

1718

30-9/1140
15

④

DATE

PAY
TO THE
ORDER OF

\$

DOLLARS

Photo
Safe
Deposit
Details on back

FOR

⑈001718⑈

Counterfeit

Face looks like original
check stock

1687

30-9/1140
15

DATE

PAY
TO THE
ORDER OF

\$

RS

Photo
Safe
Deposit
Details on back

FOR

⑈001687⑈

Original check stock

4

Counterfeit

The Back is completely **white** -
no printing at all

Back of the Original Check

Security Features exceed industry standards and include:

- ImageMatch - Matching account and check number on back (Paper No. 9250-000)
- MobileDeposit - Mobile Deposit check mark to indicate check has been deposited via mobile device
- Geo-Security Weave - pattern on back designed to deter fraud
- Microprint (MP) lines printed on front and back
- The words "ORIGINAL DOCUMENT" across the back
- Mobile Safe Deposit - icon visible on front and back

Do not cash it:

- Any of the features listed above are missing or appear altered
- Magnetic Ink on back looks pink or has disappeared
- A red ink or tinted grid appears on both front and back
- A red line at the bottom of the box

[] CHECK BOX FOR MOBILE REMOTE DEPOSIT
WRITE NAME OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION ON LINE 6

5

ENDORSE CHECK HERE
X

DO NOT WRITE / SIGN / STAMP BELOW THIS LINE
DEPOSITORY BANK ENDORSEMENT

Original Back

1. **Watermark** - Visible when held up to light. The watermark of the Bank of India is visible on the back of the document.
2. **Security Features** - Results of check alterations:
- Micro-Printing
 - Watermark
 - Colored Background
 - Void copy protection.

FOR SECURITY PURPOSES THE FACE OF THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS A COLORED BACKGROUND AND MICROPRINTING IN THE BORDER

Face, Warning bands & Back are different

TO VERIFY AUTHENTICITY, SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR DESCRIPTION OF THE 13 SECURITY FEATURES

DO NOT WRITE, SIGN OR STAMP BELOW THIS LINE
DATE

Counterfeit Back

1. **Document Details** -
- Document details are printed in the top right corner.
 - Patterned background.
 - The color coding on the front of the document.
 - Security warning system.
 - The watermark on the back of the document.
 - The watermark on the front of the document.
 - The watermark on the back of the document.
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