

Reducing Check Fraud Losses

Sight Review Procedures

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**Identifying & Stopping
Counterfeit & Altered Checks
in the Sight Review process**

Counterfeit Checks

1. **MOST counterfeit checks don't look like the customer's actual checks**
2. **Fraudsters are beating Positive Pay & Payee Positive Pay**
3. **Sight Review: Dollar Thresholds & Practices that help trigger a Check 21 Indemnity claim**

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 levels: < or = \$5000 (less than or equal to \$5000)
- **NEVER** stop Sight Review for accounts on Positive Pay!!

Sight Review Procedures

1. Focus on the check stock design – Compare Front and Back
2. Compare inclearing check against 2-3 known good checks
3. Face: Compare the check borders, designs, corners
4. Back: Compare Indorsement area, other printed info
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

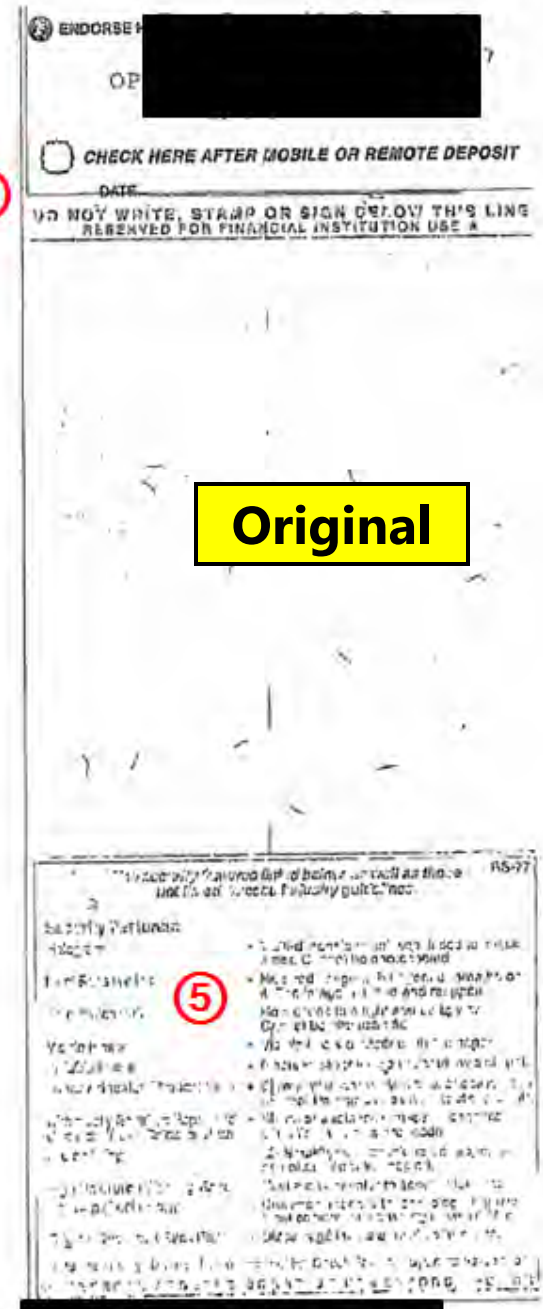
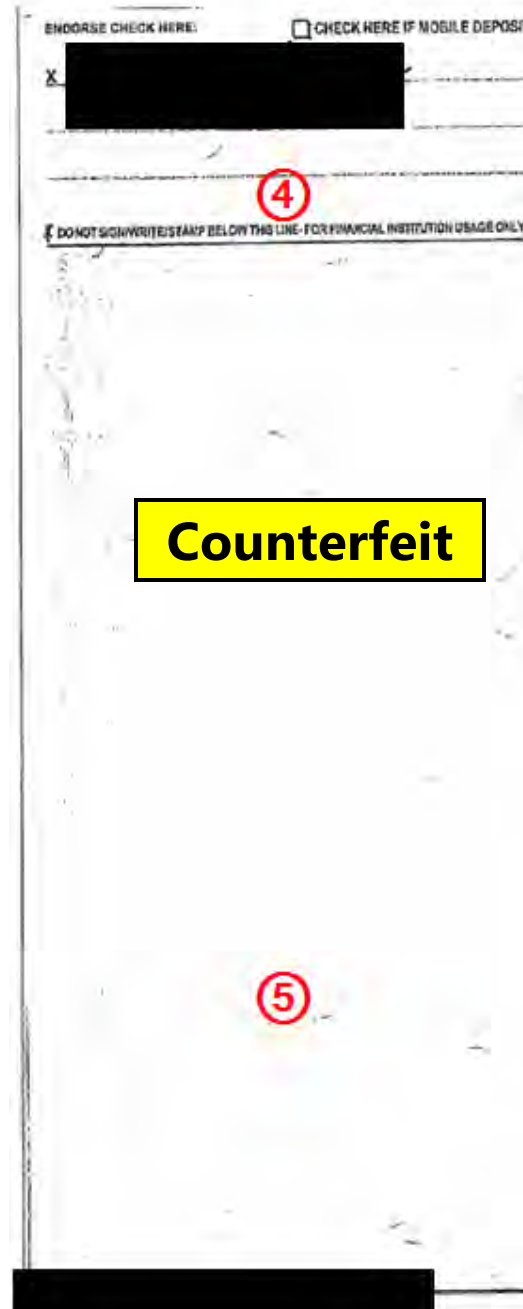


FIVE Areas to Compare - Check Stock Design

4. Indorsement area

5. Security features area

If Back is completely white be very suspicious!! ALL real checks have printing on the back.

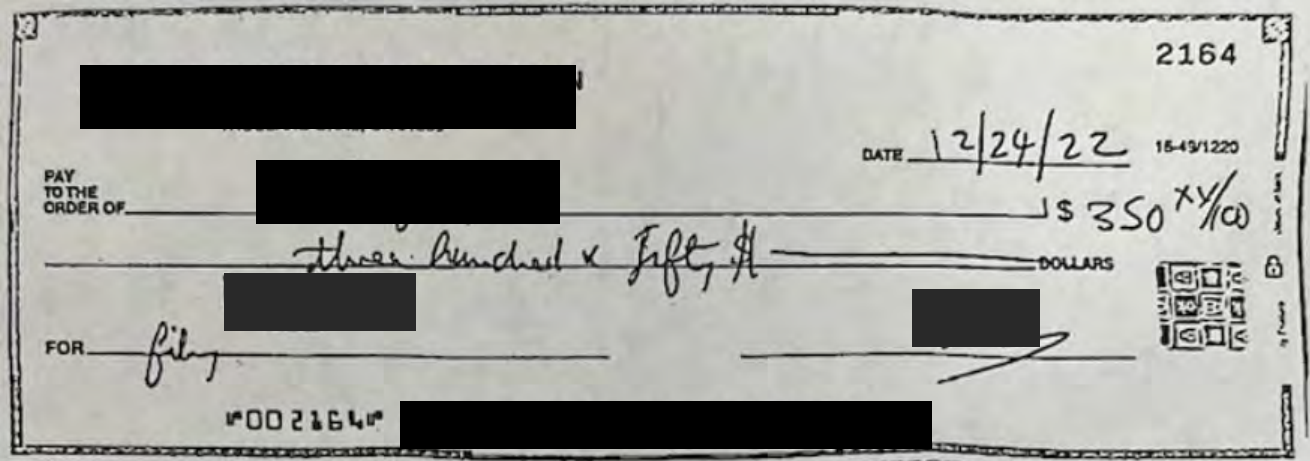


Face

Original = handwritten

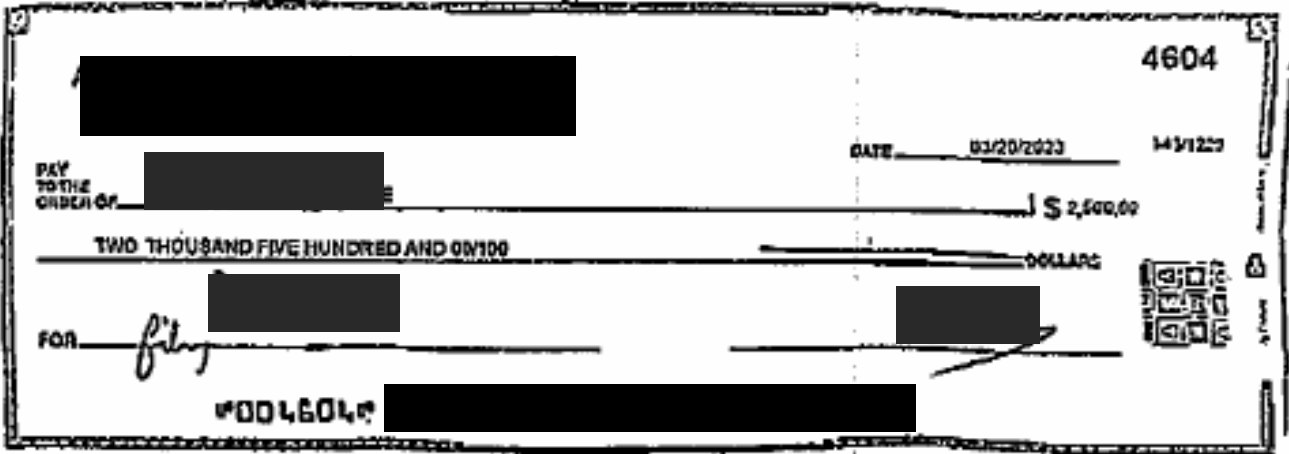
1

Original



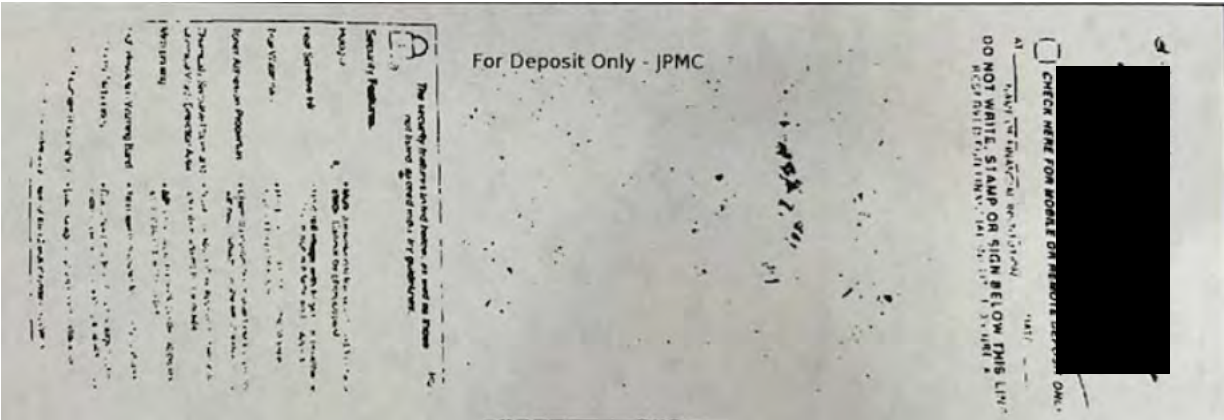
Counterfeit = computer generated

Counterfeit



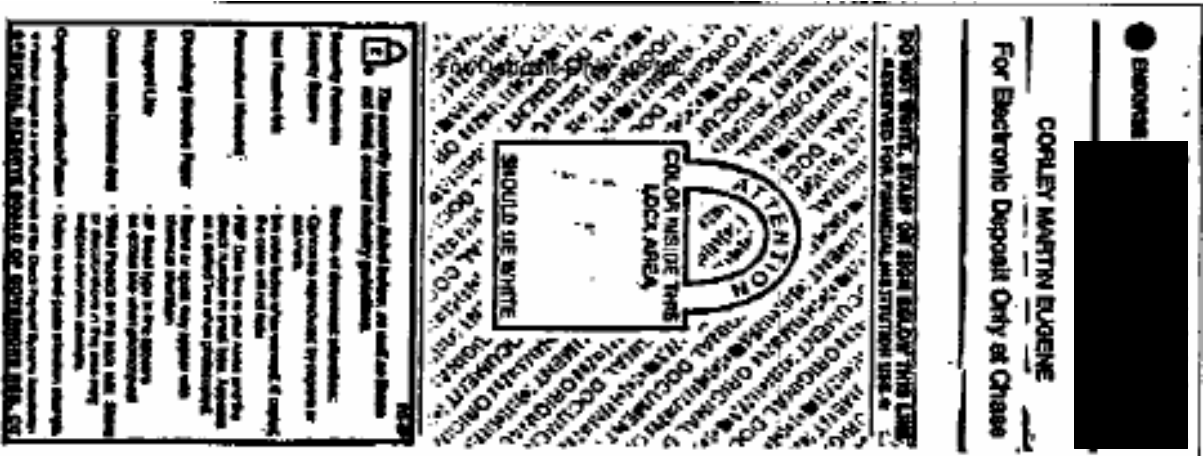
1

Original



Back

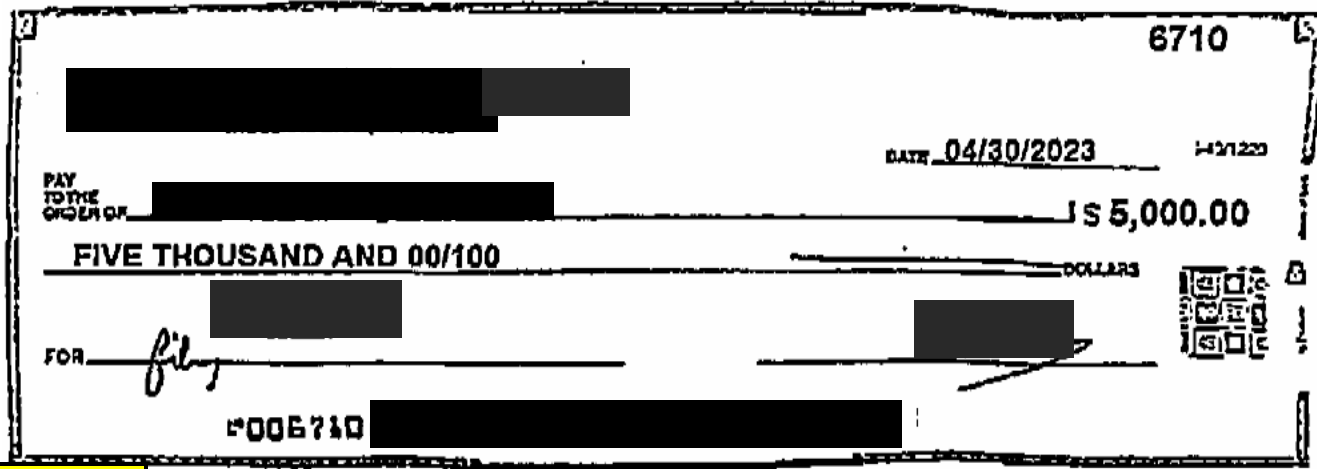
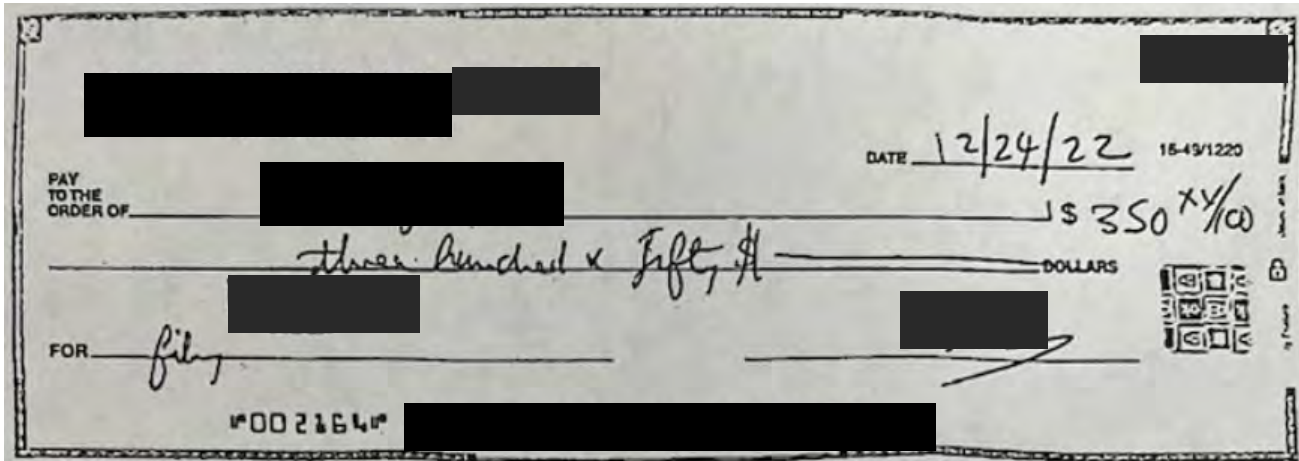
Counterfeit



Face

Original

2

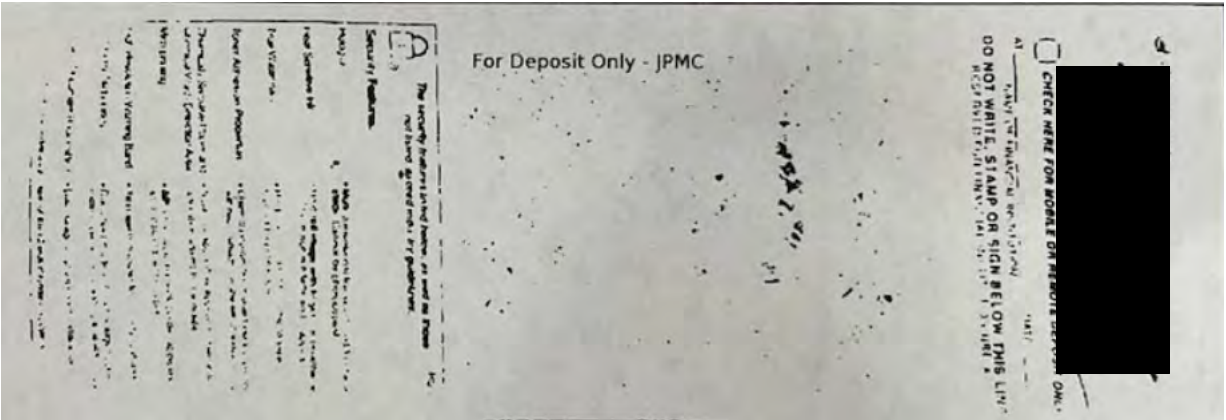


Counterfeit

Mobile deposited at multiple banks

2

Original

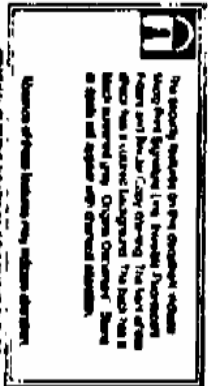


Back

FOR ELECTRONIC DEPOSIT ONLY
AT BANK OF AMERICA

DO NOT WRITE, STAMP OR SIGN BELOW THIS LINE
POSTAL SERVICE ONLY

Mobile deposited at multiple banks



Counterfeit

Counterfeit
With Bogus Payee

No. 00322444

CHECK DATE	CHECK NUMBER	CHECK AMOUNT
20-Oct-2021	00322444	\$

PAY TO THE
ORDER OF

Void After 180 Days

① ①00322444①①

Original Check Stock

No. 00322443

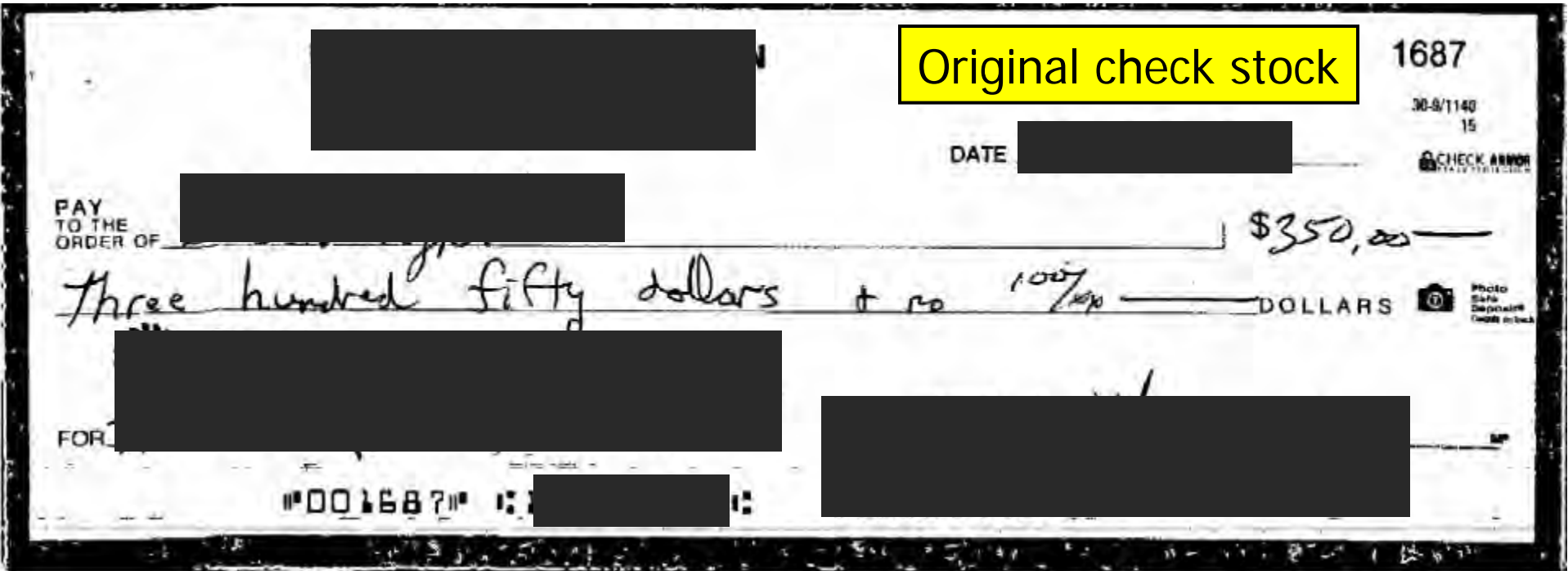
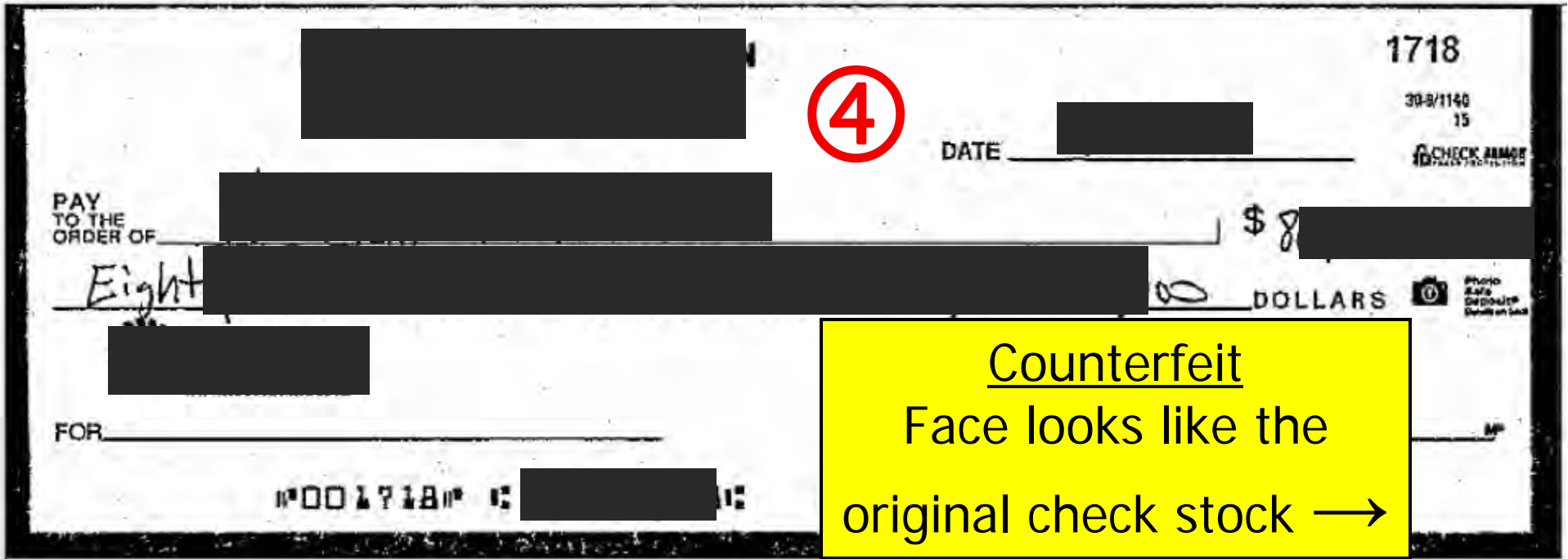
CHECK DATE	CHECK NUMBER	CHECK AMOUNT
20-Oct-2021	00322443	

PAY TO THE
ORDER OF

Void After 180 Days

①①00322443①①

③



④



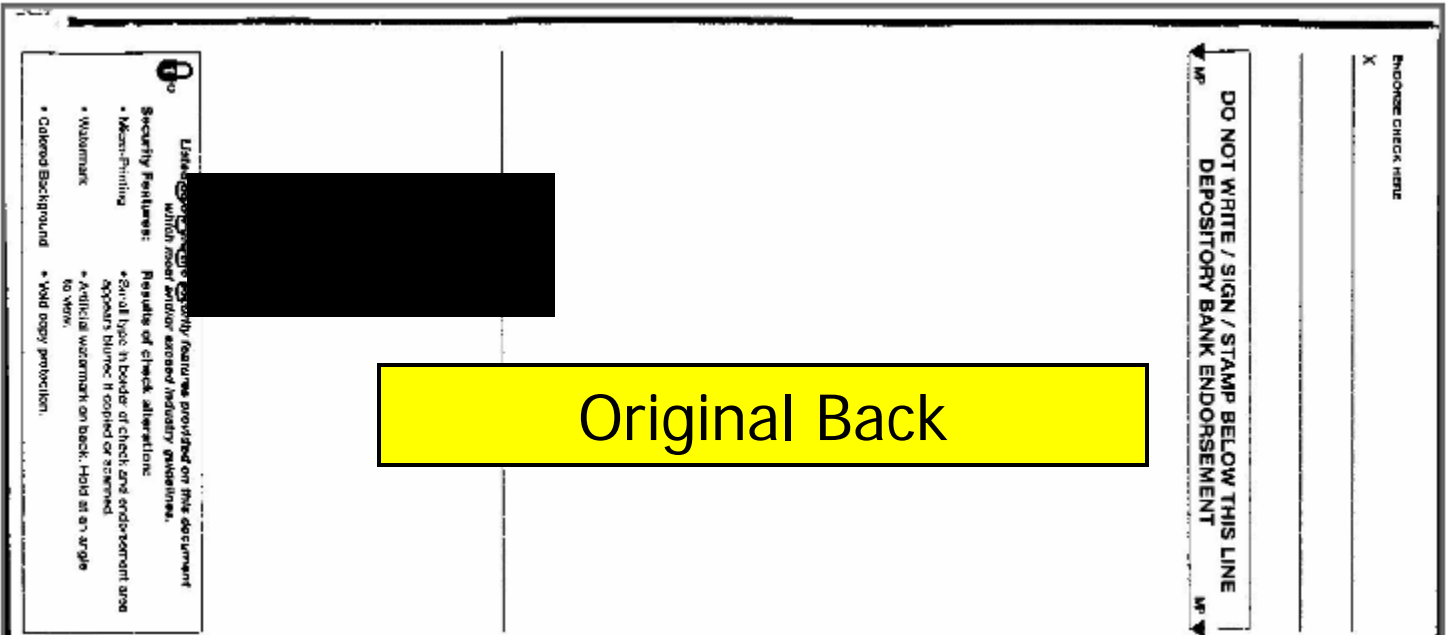
→ Counterfeit
Back is **blank**, no printing

Back of the
Original Check

[] CHECK BOX FOR MOBILE REMOTE DEPOSIT
WRITE NAME OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION ON LINE 40

- Security Features exceed industry standards and include:
- **ImageMatch** – Matching account and check number on back (Paper No. 4 210 000)
 - **MobileMark** – Mobile Deposit check mark to indicate check has been deposited via mobile device
 - **The Security Weave** – pattern on back designed to deter fraud
 - **Microprint (MP)** lines printed on front and back
 - The words “ORIGINAL DOCUMENT” across the back
 - **Auto Safe Deposit** – icon visible on front and back
- Do not cash it:
- Any of the features listed above are missing or appear altered
 - The five ink on back looks pink or has disappeared
 - A text bubble or other mark appears on both front and back
 - The words “ORIGINAL DOCUMENT” are missing

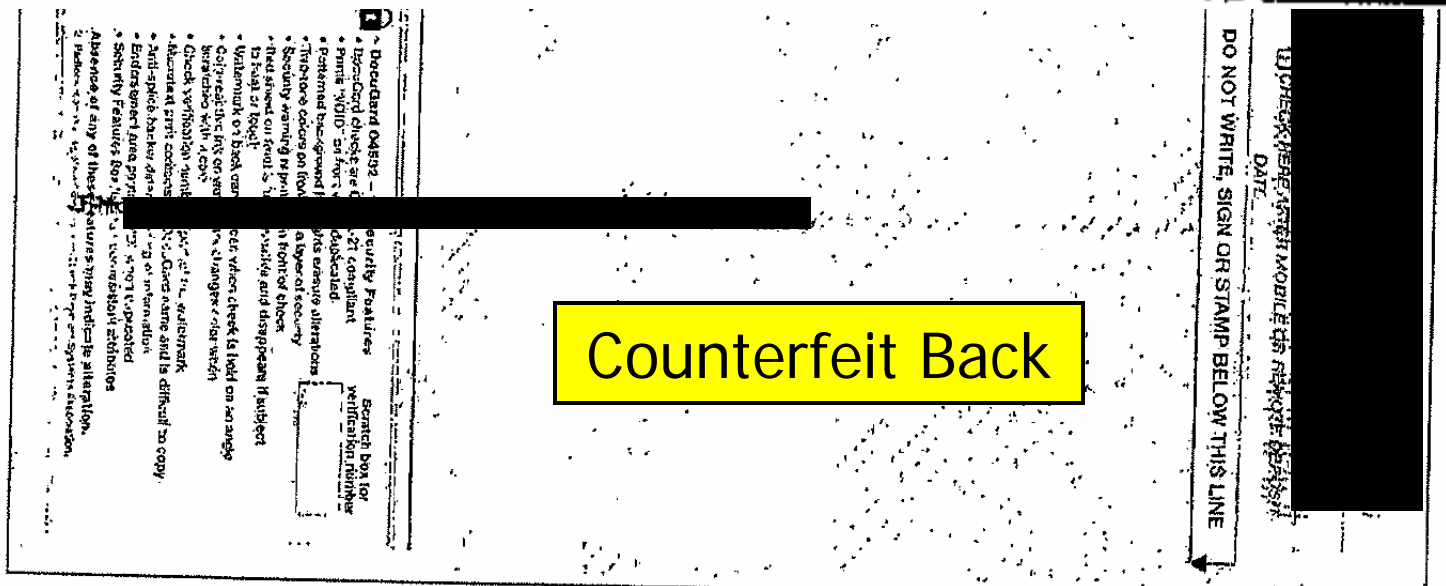
5



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



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SAFE Checks®
The Check Fraud Prevention Specialists