

RISK Alert

ACTIONABLE INSIGHTS FOR BOND POLICYHOLDERS.



Alert Type

Awareness

Watch

Warning

Corporate Check Fraud Reported

These credit unions report their corporate check accounts are being fraudulently used:

Penn Federal Credit Union, PA

TruWest Credit Union, AZ

Lakeview Federal Credit Union, OH

Eagle One Federal Credit Union, DE

CoastLife Credit Union, TX

Michigan Educational Credit Union, MI

Sunrise Family Credit Union, MI

Review the check fraud details on the following pages of this Alert. For additional questions or insights on these specific check fraud situations, please use the credit union contact information listed in the details.

Risk Mitigation Recommendations & Related Resources

Front-line staff training regarding check fraud, counterfeit checks, implementation of policies and procedures for check verification; and appropriate use of check holds are critical risk mitigation techniques. Access CUNA Mutual Group's Protection Resource Center for exclusive resources including Training Modules under Deposit Account Services – Protecting Against Check Fraud and Recognize / Prevent Common Check Fraud Schemes. User ID and Password is required.

Additional risk mitigation tips are available at [Check Fraud Loss Prevention](#) within the Protection Resource Center.

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This resource was created by CUNA Mutual Group based on our experience in the credit union, insurance, and risk management marketplace. It is intended to be used only as a guide, not as legal advice. Any examples provided have been simplified to give you an overview of the importance of selecting appropriate coverage limits, insuring-to-value, and implementing loss prevention techniques. No coverage is provided by this resource, nor does it replace any provisions of any insurance policy or bond. Please read the actual policy for specific coverage, terms, conditions, and exclusions.

Date: March 31, 2022

Risk Category: Scams, Check Fraud

States: All

Share with:

- Branch Operations
- Front-Line Staff / Tellers
- Member Services
- Risk Manager
- Teller Supervisor
- Transaction Services



To share risk insights or gain additional assistance:

- [Report a RISK Alert](#)
- [Ask a Risk Consultant](#)
- Contact a CUNA Mutual Group Risk & Compliance Consultant
 - **800.637.2676**
 - riskconsultant@cunamutual.com



Details

Credit Union	Penn Federal Credit Union
Contact's Name	Bridget Gallagher
Email Address	bgallagher@pennncu.org
Phone	215-898-8539
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checks should read "Pay" and fraudulent check reads "Pay to the order of." • The logo is smaller than the legitimate check. • Pay to name and check amount is handwritten. On legitimate check they are printed on the check via printer. • The Signature is handwritten on the legitimate check I and not preprinted. • There is no memo line on the legitimate check. • The address on the legitimate check is straight across and on the fraudulent it is stacked. • The name of our corporate bank is in the middle of the fraudulent check rather than to the right. • The heading on the top of the fraudulent check says "This document has a colored background and microprinting. The reverse side includes an artificial watermark. on the legitimate check the top reads "The face of this document has a colored background on white paper." 	

Check(s) \$ Amount	\$11,500.00
Approximate # of Checks	1
Institution Name appearing on check	Penn Federal Credit Union
Logo Location	Same as original
Bad Check Color	Unknown
Legitimate Check Color	Blue
Check Series	400001
Fraudulent Check RTN	031000053
Actual Credit Union RTN	031000053
Check Account No.(s)	8613274422
Perpetrator Name	Shanyah Banks

Credit Union	TruWest Credit Union
Contact's Name	Melissa Richins
Email Address	mmrichins@truwest.org
Phone	602-629-1917
<p>Common characteristics appear to include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The check numbers appear to start with 690; 2. The checks are missing our 1-800 phone number; 3. The TruWest name is in the wrong font; 4. The date uses forward slashes instead of dashes; 5. There appears to be watermark in the center bottom of the check that is not consistent with our actual checks. 	

Check(s) \$ Amount	Varies
Approximate # of Checks	16
Institution Name appearing on check	TruWest Credit Union
Logo Location	Same as original
Bad Check Color	
Legitimate Check Color	
Check Series	690
Fraudulent Check RTN	
Actual Credit Union RTN	
Check Account No.(s)	
Perpetrator Name	

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Interested in learning more about check fraud?

Contact CUNA Mutual Group's Risk & Compliance Solutions at **800.637.2676** or by email at nskconsultant@cunamutual.com.



Details

Credit Union	Lakeview Federal Credit Union
Contact's Name	Renae Brassel
Email Address	renaeb@lakeviewfcu.com
Phone	440-998-2707
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numeric amount and written amount did not match. Credit union phone # under address line was missing. Check border is not the same. Font style is not the same. Holographic Heat Sensitive Badge not present. 	

Check(s) \$ Amount	\$195500.00
Approximate # of Checks	1
Institution Name appearing on check	Lakeview Federal Credit Union
Logo Location	Same as original
Bad Check Color	Unknown
Legitimate Check Color	Blue
Check Series	95543
Fraudulent Check RTN	241273780
Actual Credit Union RTN	241273780
Check Account No.(s)	1101005
Perpetrator Name	Unknown

Credit Union	Eagle One Federal Credit Union
Contact's Name	Terri Kelly
Email Address	terrik@eagleonecu.com
Phone	302-798-7749
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The counterfeit logo placement is in the same location; however, it does not display our tag line "Delivering Financial Solutions to You" underneath the logo. The counterfeit logo is color imprint. Legitimate logo is black imprint. 	

Check(s) \$ Amount	\$5503.22
Approximate # of Checks	1
Institution Name appearing on check	Eagle One Federal Credit Union
Logo Location	Same location
Bad Check Color	Blue
Legitimate Check Color	Green
Check Series	099786
Fraudulent Check RTN	236084353
Actual Credit Union RTN	236084353
Check Account No.(s)	80130000
Perpetrator Name	Unknown

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Details

Credit Union	CoastLife Credit Union
Contact's Name	Jessica Read
Email Address	jessica.read@mycoastlifecu.com
Phone	361-985-6810
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legitimate checks do not have a heat sensitive feature on the front. Legitimate checks have stripes on the back, rather than an eagle logo. The signature on the fraudulent items appears pixelated. 	

Check(s) \$ Amount	\$2,465-\$4,595
Approximate # of Checks	70
Institution Name appearing on check	CoastLife Credit Union
Logo Location	Same as original
Bad Check Color	Blue and Pink
Legitimate Check Color	Blue
Check Series	762XXXX
Fraudulent Check RTN	314978417
Actual Credit Union RTN	314978417
Check Account No.(s)	14621
Perpetrator Name	Unknown

Credit Union	Michigan Educational Credit Union
Contact's Name	Brigett Somers
Email Address	bsomers@michedcu.org
Phone	734-416-5348
<p>People have reported that they are receiving the checks unexpectedly in the mail.</p>	

Check(s) \$ Amount	Info not provided
Approximate # of Checks	1
Institution Name appearing on check	Michigan Educational Credit Union
Logo Location	Same as original
Bad Check Color	Unknown
Legitimate Check Color	Green
Check Series	5500000870
Fraudulent Check RTN	272482508
Actual Credit Union RTN	272482508
Check Account No.(s)	5500000870
Perpetrator Name	Unknown

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Details

Credit Union	Sunrise Family Credit Union
Contact's Name	Marcia Gillings
Email Address	mgillings@sunrisefamilycu.org
Phone	989-684-1730
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid checks have no hologram. Valid check says cashier's check not official check. Valid check says void after 90 days but fraudulent check states: this item will not be relaced for 90 days from the date of issue. If lost, stolen or misplaced. Valid checks have 6-digit check numbers. Valid check signature is Barbara A. Weiler. Fraudulent checks appear to be signed by Richard Osborne. Valid checks do not have red and blue threads similar to currency. 	

Check(s) \$ Amount	Varies
Approximate # of Checks	2
Institution Name appearing on check	Sunrise Family Credit Union
Logo Location	Top left corner, altered
Bad Check Color	Pale blue with red/blue thread
Legitimate Check Color	Light blue design
Check Series	2297-2298
Fraudulent Check RTN	272476983
Actual Credit Union RTN	272476983
Check Account No.(s)	2700433203
Perpetrator Name	Unknown

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