

# HASTINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT



## RETAILER CHECK FORGERY & FRAUD PREVENTION SEMINAR NOTES

[www.hastingspolice.org](http://www.hastingspolice.org)

402/461-2380

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### Forgery Defined:

Whoever, with intent to deceive or harm, falsely makes, completes, endorses, alters, or utters any written instrument which is or purports to be, or which is calculated to become or to represent if completed, a written instrument which does or may evidence, create, transfer, terminate, or otherwise affect a legal right, interest, obligation, or status commits forgery.

Anybody who writes information on the check before passing, or anyone who uses or attempts to use the check could be guilty of forgery.

### Forgery contributes to other crime:

- Checks are stolen from cars, homes or businesses to be forged.
- Forgers often buy merchandise to trade for drugs.
- Personal information may be used for identity theft.

### Red Flags for possible forgery:

- Buyer does not have or will not produce ID.
- Checks have drivers license number, date of birth, or telephone number already hand-written on check.
- Checks with partial information already filled in (store, amount, etc.)
- Checks already signed (ask them to sign it again)

These signs do not always indicate a forgery, but should be cause for concern, and signify that the clerk MUST ask for ID!

### Prevention:

- **Ask for picture ID and take the time to compare photo and signatures.**  
**Most effective form of prevention!**
- Record driver's license number and date of birth on check. Do not rely on pre-printed information, information already written on check or information given verbally.
- Ask for thumbprints (Visit <http://www.signature-security.com> for information on products—this is one of many companies and is not necessarily endorsed by the Hastings Police Department)
- Do not be afraid to ask for alternate payment or refuse the sale!
- Participate in the Merchant Warning program (Visit <http://www.hastingspolice.org> for information or registration form)

For more information, contact Community Relations Coordinator Officer Scott Eveland at 402-461-2392 or Detective Adam Story at 402-461-2380.