



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF SHASTA

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PRESS RELEASE
Bad Check Unit Press Release
Updated Financial Management Class

The Bad Check Unit of the Shasta County District Attorney's Office introduced a new feature to its program- an online financial management course for bad check writers. The new online financial management program is the first of its kind used by a District Attorney's Office in the state.

The bad check enforcement program is available to merchants and private citizens in Shasta County who receive a check that has non-sufficient funds or is written on a closed account. The program allows bad check writers to pay restitution to the victim and take a financial management course in lieu of a prosecution. By statute, people participating in this bad check diversion program must complete a financial management course once all fees and restitution are paid in full. The curriculum includes budgeting, managing a checkbook, bank statement reconciliation, and information on how to avoid identity theft.

Previously, District Attorney staff taught this curriculum to approximately 500 bad check writers a year at classes held quarterly. The bad check writers were required to attend. But now, the course is available online and the bad check writer can access the course through any computer with internet access. Providing this course online saves taxpayers the cost of District Attorney staff time and printed course materials. This program also allows bad check writers to learn at their own pace. Participants can take the class immediately following completion of all other program requirements (such as payment of restitution) rather than waiting for the quarterly class, creating more timely accountability. In addition, the participants save the time and money that used to be required to travel to and from the class.

District Attorney Jerry Benito is committed to making use of new technology to create more efficient and effective ways of performing the same tasks with a focus on saving money for the taxpayers of Shasta County.

In 2009, on average, the Bad Check Unit received over 200 checks monthly for collection and collected almost \$17,000 monthly in restitution for merchants and individuals. Since its inception in 1994, the unit has collected over \$3 million for the citizens of Shasta County.

The unit's website can be located at <http://www.da.co.shasta.ca.us> .
For questions, contact District Attorney Jerry Benito at 245-6310.