

JUNEAU POLICE DEPARTMENT

6255 ALAWAY AVENUE ○ JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

Greg Browning
Chief of Police

Committed to Service and Excellence

Business (907) 586-0600

Fax (907) 463-4808

If you receive checks or money orders for this purpose or suspect the items might be fraudulent, talk directly to your local banking representative, and explain to them the circumstances of how you came into possession of the item(s). Report the incident to the Juneau Police Department at 586-0600.

All factual allegations contained in this release are based upon preliminary investigation and are subject to change or clarification as the investigation continues. Any charges reported in this release are merely accusations and all persons named in this release are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

*** END OF STATEMENT ***

www.juneaupolice.com/updates

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INFORMATION RELEASE

Subject: Fraudulent Checks/Money Orders Date: Saturday, November 06, 2010

From: Sgt Steve D. Hernandez Case or Incident: Various

Summary:

The Juneau Police Department has received an increasing number of reports of fraudulent bank checks and U.S. Postal Money Orders being cashed at local banks and credit unions in the Juneau area. In the majority of these cases, the victim cashing the checks or money orders has communicated, mostly via internet e-mail or phone text with another unknown person who then forwards them the checks through the U.S Postal system or via commercial carrier. The suspect presents themselves to the victim as living in another state or even in another country. Some of the reasons given to the victim by the suspect for need of the money greatly vary, but have included money needed to pay an outstanding hotel bill in Nigeria, Africa.

Upon receipt of the check or money order, the victim is then instructed to cash the item at their local bank, using the victim's personal bank account as collateral, then to send the majority portion of the check to the originator, and to keep a small portion for themselves as a fee. During the normal processing at the banking facility, the check or money order is later found to be fraudulent. This leaves the victim who cashed the check or money order owing the banking institution the total amount that the check was cashed for.

Creating a fraudulent check or money order is a felony. Knowingly cashing a fraudulent check or money order is also a felony. Knowingly taking the money can be either a misdemeanor or felony, depending on the amount.

This type of fraud, using unknowing victims, is becoming more common in Alaska and is very common in the lower 48. Use caution and ask questions if you are approached online or even in person by someone asking you to cash a check or money order for them under suspicious circumstances.