



# Receiving Money Orders — HOW TO SPOT A FAKE.



**BEFORE ACCEPTING A MONEY ORDER, MAKE SURE IT'S REAL. THERE ARE SEVERAL KEY THINGS TO LOOK AT TO SPOT A COUNTERFEIT MONEY ORDER.**

## EXAMINE THE PAPER

Real USPS money orders have specific marks and designs to prevent fraud.

If you hold the money order up to the light you should see:

- Watermarks of Ben Franklin on the left side repeat top to bottom (circle 1 on image).
- On the right of the Franklin watermark, a vertical, multicolored thread with the letters "USPS" weaves in and out of the paper to (circle 2 on image).

## CHECK THE DOLLAR AMOUNTS

- If the dollar amount is discolored, it may have been erased, indicating fraud (circle 3 on image).
- Make sure the dollar amount is imprinted twice (circle 4 on image).
- See if the dollar value is too large.
  - Domestic money orders cannot be more than \$1,000.
  - International money orders cannot be more than \$700 (\$500 for El Salvador or Guyana).

## SUSPECT A FAKE?

- If you suspect fraud, call the U.S. Postal Inspection Service at **1-877-876-2455**.
- If you think you've been given a fake money order, call the **Money Order Verification System** at **1-866-459-7822**.

Scan below for more information about securing your money orders!



USPS MONEY ORDERS