

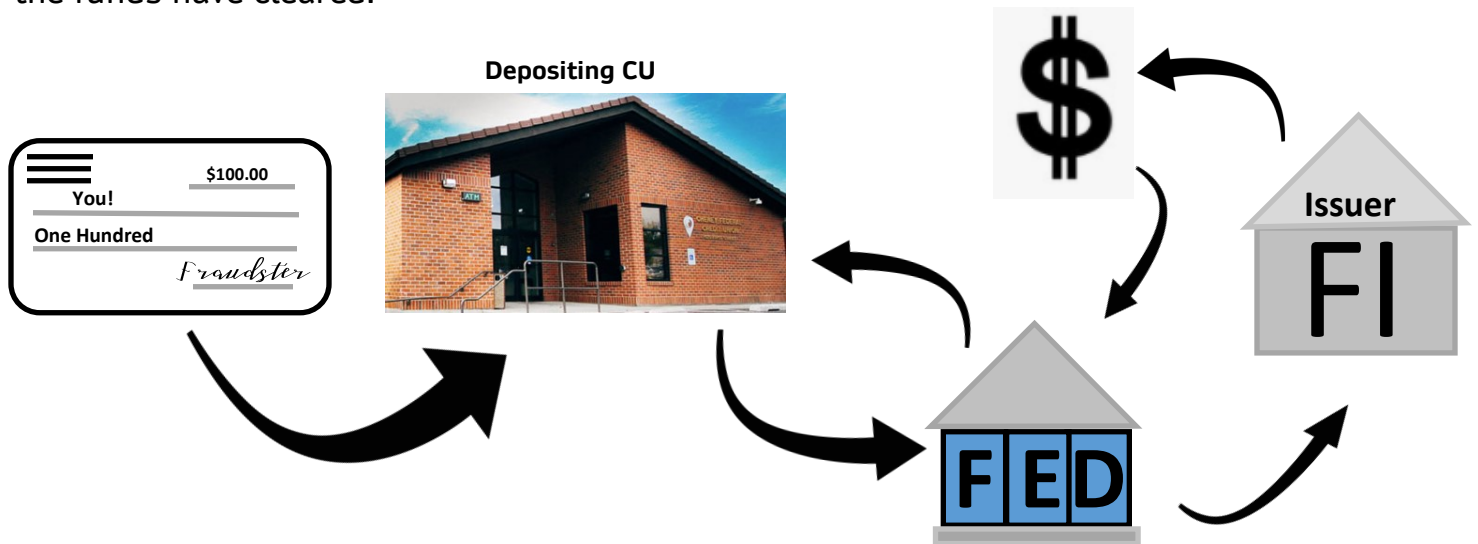
How to Avoid Being a Victim to Check Fraud

It is time to get savvy about the pitfalls of check fraud. Don't be a victim, learn what to look for and understand how a check works to help protect you and your money from fraud,

There are so many ways technology has made it easier to pay for things like, **Apply Pay, Android Pay, Person to Person Pay, Online Bill Pay, Facebook Pay, & Cash App**. But, while checks may no longer be the most common way to pay, there are still fraudsters who continue to add them to their arsenal of scam tricks.

Whether you are having a yard sale or selling an item on Facebook Marketplace, understanding how a check works can help protect you and your money from fraud.

Once you deposit the check, the cash value may appear in your account. However, it may have a hold on a certain portion or all of the check. This hold is a good faith gesture that the money is there. Typically, it lasts from two to six days. Just because the hold is released, does not mean the funds have cleared.



The check then goes to the Federal Reserve. They send it to the other person's financial institution to see if the money is there. The other institution will then pull the money out of that account and the check will not be returned. If the check is fraudulent, they say, "Nope! No good," and return the check back to the Federal Reserve.

The Federal Reserve returns the 'bounced' check back to Cheney Federal Credit Union. This means that those funds you thought you had will no longer be there, and you may be liable for a return check fee. **This process typically takes anywhere from two days to two weeks.**

When receiving a check remember

- A check "clears" when the money has transferred from the check writer's account
- You'll have to repay any funds you use if the check bounces, and there might be a fee for insufficient funds.
- Checks can be returned up to 45 days after being deposited
- When making a mobile deposit, keep a copy of the check for up to 60 days (in case the check is returned or there is a problem)

Cheney Federal Credit Union is always looking for ways to help our members. If you have any questions, concerns or feel you are target for fraud, please contact us. 509-235-6533.

CFCU Here for You