



PRESS RELEASE

United States Secret Service
Department of Homeland Security



April 20, 2020
CMR 06-20

U.S. SECRET SERVICE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY LAUNCH - KNOW YOUR U.S. TREASURY CHECK CAMPAIGN

WASHINGTON - The Secret Service in partnership with the U.S. Department of the Treasury is leading the charge to bring awareness to citizens, retailers and financial institutions on how to protect themselves from becoming a victim of easy to detect counterfeit U.S. Treasury Checks. According to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), paper U.S. Treasury checks from the \$2 trillion dollar Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) will be mailed and issued to millions of Americans beginning late April, 2020. With the implementation of the CARES Act, comes opportunities for criminal activity, like check fraud.

The Secret Service and the U.S. Department of the Treasury want to inform citizens and consumers nationwide on ways to protect themselves during these times. This announcement contains information that consumers and financial institutions can use to identify counterfeit U.S. Treasury checks by knowing what to look for and where to look.

Quick Tips / Genuine Security Features:

- **Treasury Seal** – A new seal to the right of the Statue of Liberty. It should say “Bureau of the Fiscal Service,” and has replaced the old seal that said “Financial Management Service.”
- **Bleeding Ink** – the seal to the right of the Statue of Liberty when moisture is applied to the black ink will “run” and turn red.
- **Watermark** – All U.S. Treasury checks are printed on watermark paper. The watermark reads “U.S. TREASURY,” and is seen from both front and back when held up to a light source.
- **Ultraviolet Overprinting** – A protective ultraviolet (UV) pattern is invisible to the naked eye, consisting of lines of “FMS” bracketed by the FMS seal on the left and the U.S. Seal (eagle) on the right. As of 2013, a new ultraviolet pattern was introduced into the check that says “FISCALSERVICE”. Either one of these UV patterns may be seen.
- **Microprinting** – is located on the back of the check with the words “USAUSAUSA.”
- **Economic Impact Payment:** The Economic Impact Payment checks will have the following information located on the lower right side of the Statue of Liberty: “Economic Impact Payment President Donald J. Trump”

Treasury Seal
The new seal reflecting “Bureau of the Fiscal Service” has replaced the old one. The old seal, reflecting “Financial Management Service” will be seen in rotation until this check stock runs out.



Bleeding Ink
The Treasury seal, located to the right of the Statue of Liberty contains security ink that will run and turn red when moisture is applied to the black ink of the seal.

Microprinting
Microprinted words are so small they appear as just a line to the naked eye. However, when magnified, they become readable. Microprinting cannot be replicated by a copier and when a check is counterfeited, it will often show up as a solid line or a series of dots. The U.S. Treasury check has one area on the back if where microprinting is used with the words “USAUSAUSA.”

U.S. TREASURY CHECK SECURITY FEATURES



Ultraviolet Overprinting
A protective ultraviolet pattern, invisible to the naked eye, consisting of four lines of “FMS” bracketed by the FMS Seal on the left and the United States Seal (eagle) on the right. This pattern can usually be found under the payee information and dollar amount area. The FMS pattern and seals can be detected under a black light. If the amount box is shaved or altered in any way, a space will be created in the ultraviolet area. When exposed to black light, the ink used in the pattern and the seal will glow. This fluorescent quality cannot be photocopied.



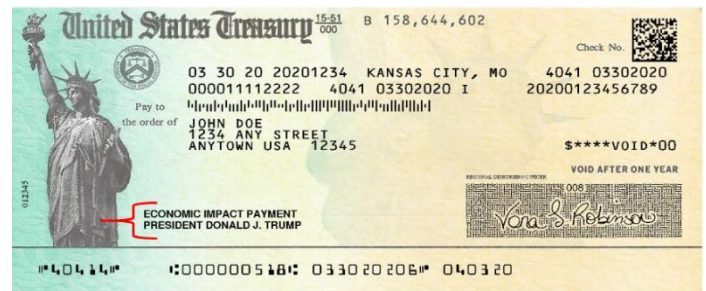
Watermark
All U.S. Treasury checks are printed on watermarked paper. The watermark reads “U.S. TREASURY” and can be seen from both the front and back of the check when held up to a light. The watermark is light and cannot be reproduced by a copier. Any check not having the watermark should be suspected as being counterfeit or copied.

As of October 2013, a new ultraviolet pattern was introduced into the check stock consisting of four lines of “FISCALSERVICE” (see below). Also, the seal has been changed to read “Bureau of the Fiscal Service”. Either one of these ultraviolet patterns may be seen until the prior check stock runs out.



You may verify check item information using the Bureau of the Fiscal Service Treasury Check Verification Application (TCVA) at: <https://tcva.fiscal.treasury.gov/>

April 2020



We at the Secret Service and the U.S. Department of the Treasury are working with our law enforcement partners to ensure a unity of effort to disrupt and deter criminal activity that could hinder an effective response to the pandemic, to help vulnerable organizations, and to recover money stolen from Americans. For more information or to report a COVID-19 related scam, please contact your local law enforcement agency, a [Secret Service Field Office](#), the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Inspector General, the U.S. Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at [tips:TIGTA.gov](https://TIGTA.gov), the Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov, the [National Center for Disaster Fraud](#) (NCDF), [Internal Revenue Service](#) (IRS) and the [Federal Trade Commission](#) (FTC).

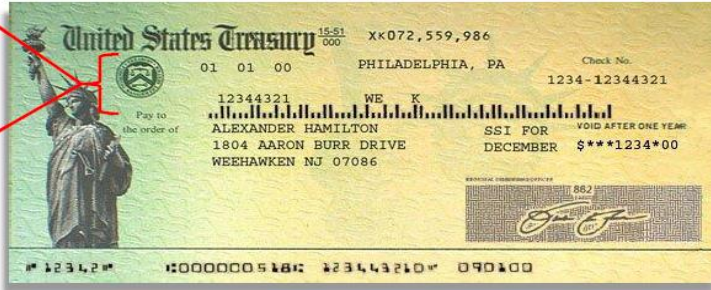
To learn more about the security features that can be found on U.S Treasury Checks please click [here](#) or visit at: <https://fiscal.treasury.gov/files/reference-guidance/gold-book/check-security-features.pdf>

For questions concerning this release, please contact the U.S. Secret Service Office of Communication and Media Relations at 202-406-5708.

The United States Secret Service was originally founded in 1865 for the purpose of suppressing the counterfeiting of U.S. currency. Now an agency within the Department of Homeland Security, the Secret Service is widely known for its protective mission in safeguarding the nation's highest elected officials, visiting foreign dignitaries and events of national significance. Today, the Secret Service maintains a unique integrated mission of protection and investigations, as one of the premier law enforcement organizations charged with investigating cyber and financial crimes.

U.S. TREASURY CHECK SECURITY FEATURES

Treasury Seal
The new seal reflecting "Bureau of the Fiscal Service" has replaced the old one. The old seal, reflecting "Financial Management Service" will be seen in rotation until this check stock runs out.



Ultraviolet Overprinting
A protective ultraviolet pattern, invisible to the naked eye, consisting of four lines of "FMS" bracketed by the FMS Seal on the left and the United States Seal (eagle) on the right. This pattern can usually be found under the payee information and dollar amount area. The FMS pattern and seals can be detected under a black light. If the amount box is shaved or altered in any way, a space will be created in the ultraviolet area. When exposed to black light, the ink used in the pattern and the seal will glow. This fluorescent quality cannot be photocopied.

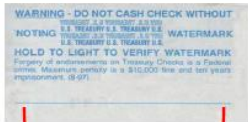
Bleeding Ink

The Treasury seal, located to the right of the Statue of Liberty contains security ink that will run and turn red when moisture is applied to the black ink of the seal.



Microprinting

Microprinted words are so small they appear as just a line to the naked eye. However, when magnified, they become visible. Microprinting cannot be duplicated by a copier and when a check is counterfeited, it will often show up as a solid line or a series of dots. The U.S. Treasury check has one area on the back of where microprinting is used with the words "USAUSAUSA."



USAUSAUSAUSA

Watermark

All U.S. Treasury checks are printed on watermarked paper. The watermark reads "U.S. TREASURY" and can be seen from both the front and back of the check when held up to a light. The watermark is light and cannot be reproduced by a copier. Any check not having the watermark should be suspected as being counterfeit or copied.

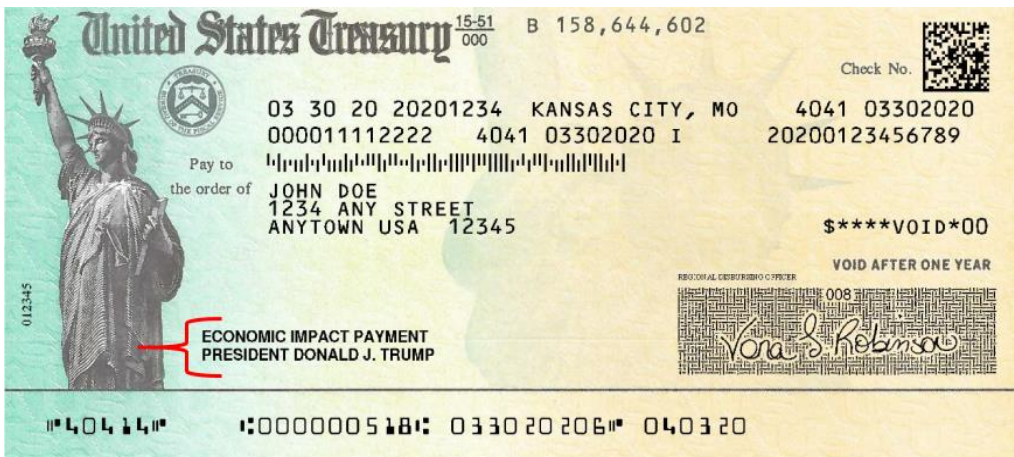
As of October 2013, a new ultraviolet pattern was introduced into the check stock consisting of four lines of "FISCALSERVICE" (see below). Also, the seal has been changed to read "Bureau of the Fiscal Service". Either one of these ultraviolet patterns may be seen until the prior check stock runs out.



You may verify check issue information using the Bureau of the Fiscal Service Treasury Check Verification Application (TCVA) at: <https://tcva.fiscal.treasury.gov>.

April 2020

Economic Impact Payment Specimen: The Economic Impact Payment checks will have the following information located on the lower right side of the Statue of Liberty: ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENT PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP.



For questions concerning this release, please contact the U.S. Secret Service Office of Communication and Media Relations at 202-406-5708.

The United States Secret Service was originally founded in 1865 for the purpose of suppressing the counterfeiting of U.S. currency. Now an agency within the Department of Homeland Security, the Secret Service is widely known for its protective mission in safeguarding the nation's highest elected officials, visiting foreign dignitaries and events of national significance. Today, the Secret Service maintains a unique integrated mission of protection and investigations, as one of the premier law enforcement organizations charged with investigating cyber and financial crimes.