COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY DETECTION & RESPONSE

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INDIANA STATUTE

IC 35-43-3-2
- Counterfeiting; false or fraudulent sales receipt, forgery, application fraud
- (a) A person who knowingly or intentionally:
  - (1) makes or utters a written instrument in such a manner that it purports to have been made:
    - (A) by another person;
    - (B) at another time;
    - (C) with different provisions; or
    - (D) by authority of one who did not give authority;
  - (2) possesses more than one (1) written instrument knowing that the written instruments were made in a manner that they purport to have been made:
    - (A) by another person;
    - (B) at another time;
    - (C) with different provisions; or
    - (D) by authority of one who did not give authority; commits counterfeiting, a Level 6 felony.

IMPORTANT STATUTORY ELEMENTS

First Application:
- Knowing & Intentionally
- Utters
- By authority of one who did not give authority

Second Application:
- Possesses more than one
- Knowing
- By authority of one who did not give authority

FEDERAL STATUTE

18 U.S. Code § 472 - Uttering counterfeit obligations or securities
- Whoever, with intent to defraud, passes, utters, publishes, or sells, or attempts to pass, utter, publish, or sell, or with like intent brings into the United States or keeps in possession or conceals any falsely made, forged, counterfeited, or altered obligation or other security of the United States, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both.

IMPORTANT STATUTORY ELEMENTS

Intent to Defraud
- Passes or utters
- Or attempts
- Falsely made, forged, counterfeit, or altered

STATE VS. FEDERAL

Passing a counterfeit bill satisfies the elements of either code
However, federal counterfeiting is investigated by the U.S. Secret Service whose priority is larger, organized counterfeiting rings
State counterfeiting statute can be investigated by any level of local law enforcement (city/town, county, state)
Counterfeiting that you will encounter should always be reported at the local level first
Investigation can always be escalated but we don't want to "cry wolf" to USSS without knowing it is appropriate
AWARENESS

The $20 bill is the most frequently counterfeited bill within the United States.
- Smaller bills are considered too low in value to produce or risk passing
- Set a threshold for utilizing counterfeit detection techniques

AWARENESS: SECURITY MEASURES WITHIN BILLS

- Watermark
- Color-shifting ink
- Security Thread
- 3D Security Ribbon
- Serial Numbers

DETECTING COUNTERFEIT BILLS

Counterfeit Detection Pens
- Available at any office supply store
- Approximately $3 each
- Not foolproof though

Electronic Detectors
- More expensive
- $25 to $150
- Still cheaper than getting burnt

DETERRENCE

Most professional counterfeitters will scout your location before trying to pass fake bills.
- Diligence in utilizing your detection tools can be the difference between being an easy target and the counterfeiter not even trying.
- Don’t hide your tools. Use them in front of the customer for every large note.

Signage
- Conspicuous signs that all counterfeit bills will be immediately reported to law enforcement

TWO TYPES OF BILL PASSERS

- Malicious
  - Intentionally trying to pass counterfeit currency that they know is illegitimate

WARNING SIGNS

- Unfamiliar faces
- Paying bills for others not present
- Using large bill for relatively small charge
- Conversation/distractions during money counting or counterfeit detection device utilization
WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT A COUNTERFEIT BILL

Mistaken or Malicious, your response should be the same:
- Retain the bill
- Covertly call the police
- Passively attempt to keep the subject on site
- However, no attempt to harm, attack, or steal, to protect your safety.

TAKE AWAYS

- Awareness
- Deterrence
- Detection
- Response