

## COUNTY OF YOLO OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **CRIME PREVENTION TIPS**

In recognition of October as "National Crime Prevention Month" the Yolo County District Attorney's Office will be providing useful tips each week from different units.

The Check Prosecution Unit recommends the following tips to help keep you safe:

- 1) Use a "gel" pen when writing checks because the ink penetrates the paper and is harder to erase if stolen.
- 2) Always deposit outgoing mail, including checks, into a secure postal collection box or at the post office to help reduce chance of mail theft.
- 3) Be aware of receiving checks "out of the blue" with instructions to deposit them and wire money somewhere. Many scams including foreign sweepstakes, phony job offers and inheritance begin this way.
- 4) Make sure that a complete name and address is printed on the check before accepting it as payment. Comparing with a drivers license and writing down that information may be helpful if it bounces.
- 5) Bad check forms are available online at <a href="https://www.yoloda.org/Files/BadCheckComplaintForm.pdf">www.yoloda.org/Files/BadCheckComplaintForm.pdf</a>. or any local Chamber of Commerce and at the DA's Office.

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