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| MESA POLICE Department Policy Manual | Counterfeit Currency Incidents | DPM 3.1.105 Effective 02/20/2014 Revised 12/11/2023 |
| Approved by: Chief of Police | Chapter: Investigations | Page: 1 of 2 |

1. PURPOSE

This policy provides guidelines to Mesa Police Department (MPD) members for investigating counterfeit currency incidents.

2. GUIDELINES

2.1 General

- A. The investigation and prosecution of counterfeit currency cases falls primarily under the jurisdiction of the Secret Service.
- B. Members of the MPD assist these efforts by investigating specific types of counterfeit currency events and documenting the findings in a departmental report (GO).

2.2 Communications Responsibilities

- A. Assign the following calls to Patrol for investigation:
 - 1. In-progress calls.
 - 2. Calls where a suspect has been identified.
 - 3. Calls where a specific suspect description is given along with additional information that would likely lead the officer to the suspect (e.g., complete license plate, check cashing card left behind, etc.).
- B. Direct all other callers to take counterfeit currency to their bank.

2.3 In-Custody Cases

- A. Charge suspect with presenting a forged instrument.
- B. Process all paperwork and evidence as any other in-custody case including attaching photos or photocopies of all counterfeit currency.
- C. Document serial number(s) and denominations of all counterfeit currency in GO or evidence module.
- D. Submit counterfeit currency as an Article and for Evidence.

2.4 All Other Currency Cases Resulting in a GO

- A. Complete a GO and attach photos or photocopies of all counterfeit currency.
- B. Document serial number(s) and denominations of all counterfeit currency in GO or evidence module.
- C. Submit counterfeit currency as an Article and for Destruction.
- D. Appropriately package all evidence and place it into the Evidence Section pursuant to [DPM 3.2.50 Impounding Evidence & Property – Special Handling](#).

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2.5 Items Not Recognized as Counterfeit Currency

- A. Items such as prop money or training money which are readily available and can be purchased legally will not be collected and charged as Forgery if a subject has mere possession.
 1. Consider charging Theft in these cases when it is presented as payment.

2.6 Large Scale Counterfeit Cases (i.e., Printing Counterfeit Money)

- A. Contact the Secret Service Phoenix Field Office and determine if they wish to become immediately involved.

REFERENCES

- [DPM 3.2.50 Impounding Evidence & Property – Special Handling](#)