

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

## 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](#)