



Barron County District Attorney

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To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Financial Crime Services

Virtually all of the early stages of worthless check prosecutions are handled by Financial Crime Services. (I say “virtually” because if we get a series of large checks, we ask to have those investigated and we prosecute those separately.)

The purpose of this letter is to say that FCS has been a benefit to this office in many ways and has saved a substantial amount of staff and attorney time. As for staff time, a fair estimate would be in our county of 45,000 people, FCS has saved one full time secretarial position.

FCS receives the checks directly, sends the initial notification letters, and works on collating the file and collecting on the checks.

Our office has a policy that if the checks are not paid to FCS prior to their referring the case to us for prosecution, we prosecute as a crime and do not amend the criminal charge to a county ordinance violation. This also saves staff time because they don't have to spend a lot of time with defendants looking to “wheel and deal”.

As for attorney time, that is maximized as well. The file is fully prepared with all the notice letters and contacts provided to the attorney for easy access and review.

All in all, I must say that having FCS handle our worthless checks has been a benefit to this office and has provided significant savings to the taxpayers of Barron County. Additionally, we have seen a drop in the recidivism rate since FCS also requires the bad check writers to attend and complete a financial management class.

It certainly seems to be a “win-win”.

Very truly yours,

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