

Scrip Safety Reminder for the Holidays

Scrip is just like cash so must be safeguarded just like cash.

The holiday time is a festive time in which we celebrate the imparting kindness, generosity, and appreciation to others. It is also a time in which unsavory characters might use to take advantage of situations and those unlikely to suspect shenanigans. Be aware.

Scrip Safety

Make a point to know who places orders or buys scrip!

Always remember to accept checks (or credit cards if you offer this) for scrip purchases ONLY from people that you know or who can be determined are legitimately linked to your school or organization.

If you do NOT know someone, accept cash ONLY and/or make inquiries as to their identity.

- Check your school or organization directory**
- Ask for 3 pieces of identification**
- Ask to see picture identification**
- Ask what student he/she is related to and what class he/she is in**
- Call the person whose name is printed on the check**
- Call the bank branch printed on the check**
- Accept cash only if person is not known to you or your scrip team**

If an inventory of scrip is kept at your location be sure to keep the accounting of it up-to-date and in a locked and secure safe that is bolted down to the floor or wall.

Some scenarios of fraud are written below. Please don't let them happen to you!

- A person called several schools until they found one that carried an inventory. Then she went to that school, posed as one of the kids' aunts so they would think there was a tie to the school, and paid with a bogus or stolen check. This person did this at other schools too so got away with a lot of scrip. The police were called in on this one and the woman was apprehended.
- A person swapped out a used gift card for a new one in someone's purse and then went to the store and used the good card and paid the extra amount due with their credit cards. Luckily, the store video tapes credit transactions and after this person was a suspect in the theft, the video was shown to the victim and the thief was immediately recognized and caught. He was the boyfriend of the woman's daughter! Another similar situation was a maid did the same thing in a household that she was tending.
- A person stole blank gift cards (hanging near the check out line) and then took them to the school to be exchanged. Of course the school wanted this person's business, so they kindly gave them back brand new cards. When the school contacted us, we told her the serial numbers on the bad cards were of a category of "stock" cards and not from the category of numbers that are for scrip. The school had to call the person and she feigned ignorance. Ignorant is right!