



## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 6/6/11

Case No. General Release

The Portage Police Department has received complaints from citizens concerned about fraudulent activities. The complaints involve receiving E-mail or U.S. mail requesting that the recipient cash a check and then wire funds back to the sender. Many times contacts are made when a complainant responds to a help wanted ad that is found on the Internet. The ads may be for a secret shopper, a nanny, professional services, or other employment. The recipient may be told they can keep a portion of the money involved. The perpetrator may advise that they have changed their minds and want the funds back. The original checks sent to the complainant are counterfeit. The person who cashes the check then becomes a victim when the financial institution requires repayment of funds.

Please DO NOT cash any checks from third parties that involve forwarding funds to someone else. It is also suggested that caution be used when accepting "employment opportunities" on the Internet. If you have questions, please contact the Portage Police Department or your local police agency.

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