



How Check-Holds Protect You and Your Credit Union

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about check-holds and the availability of funds

Q: Why is TCCU holding my check, and for how long?

A: Sometimes, your funds must be “held” for several days while your check clears. This is done to protect you, and your fellow credit union members, whose assets we are entrusted with.

Q: How does holding my check protect me?

A: You could be a victim of the recent rising tide of fraudulently issued or counterfeit checks, or there could be an error of some sort on the check. If we were to issue you the funds, only to find later that the funds were not available at the issuing bank, we would be legally obligated to try to recover the funds from you, even if you have already spent the money.

Q: But my check is a government, payroll, or cashiers check. It *must* be good!

A: Actually, there has been a dramatic rise in the number of counterfeit government, payroll, and cashiers checks being discovered. Today’s technology makes it all too simple for criminals to copy, alter, or counterfeit such checks.

Q: I can’t wait for my funds. I need the money now. What are some of my options?

A: There are several options available to you:

- If the check is drawn on a local bank or credit union, you may be able to cash the check there and receive your funds immediately.
- You may be able to convert the check to an ACH transaction or wire transfer.
- If you are creditworthy, you may apply for a line of credit, which would be paid off when the check clears.
- If you qualify, TCCU may be able to approve a partial release of a portion of the funds.

See a Member Services Representative for more information on these and other options.

Q: Is this a change in TCCU policy? This didn’t happen the last time I cashed a check here.

A: No, this is not a change in policy. TCCU’s policy has always been to apply a check-hold to certain types of checks in specific circumstances. For security reasons, we can not disclose the exact parameters which require a check-hold.

Q: What kinds of problems will this help to solve?

Stolen Personal and Commercial Checks	Internet Scams and other schemes
Check kiting and similar practices	Checks containing errors or omissions
Counterfeit bank checks	Counterfeit U.S. Treasury checks
Counterfeit cashiers checks	Counterfeit money orders

Q: Surely you don’t think I’m a counterfeiter!

A: No, but *anyone* can become the victim of one. Scams and check theft also target all of us.

Q: Can’t you make an exception for me? I’ve been a TCCU member for a long, long time!

A: Subject to your account history and management approval, some exceptions may be made in extraordinary circumstances.

Q: How will this affect me as someone who writes a lot of checks on my TCCU account?

A: You should feel confident that this policy helps to protect your funds from check-theft, forgery, and fraud.

Q: Are these check-holds legal, and how long can they last?

A: The Expedited Funds Availability Act (Regulation CC) authorizes financial institutions to delay the availability of deposited funds in a variety of situation, to include identity verification, new accounts, and other circumstances. The maximum amount of time that your funds may remain unavailable is eleven banking days for an out-of-state check. Banking days do not include Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays.

Q: What if I have other questions?

A: Call us at (940) 851-4000, email us at info@TexomaCU.com, or visit with a Member Services Representative.