CONSUMER CORNER

Steering clear of fake-check scams can be simple. Still, millions of Americans fall victim to check fraud each year, costing them between three and four thousand dollars each, according to government statistics. If you think you’ve been given a fake check, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency says to call or visit the bank on which the check was written to determine its authenticity. If the bank is national, you can also visit Help-with-my-bank-dot-gov. If the check is fake, call the police.