

The Justice Court was established by the Texas Constitution to provide the citizens of the state with a court on the local level in which they could seek relief for wrongs or losses.

In that regard, we are concerned about the rapid increase in the issuance of bad checks. The Texas Penal Code article 32.41 states "A person commits an offense if he issues or passes a check or similar sight order for the payment of money knowing that the issuer does not have sufficient funds in or on deposit with the bank or other drawee for the payment in full of the check or order as well as all other checks or orders outstanding at the time of issuance." This offense is a class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500. This offense results in great losses for the merchants of Jefferson County.

In an effort to prevent this, our court is providing you with this pamphlet. We have additional information which can be provided to you by calling or coming by the office.

If the court can be of further assistance to you, please call and we will be happy to serve you as long as it is within the scope of the law.

Stop Giving Your Money To Ballpoint Bandits!



Issued as a public service by:

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Things to know about filing checks with our office:

- Our office collects the restitution and a \$30 merchant fee on each check.
- The amount of the check makes no difference. This is not a theft by check case.
- Once a warrant is issued, it will be placed in the county criminal data bank as well as posted on the county web site. (www.co.jefferson.tx.us) .
- We input the offenders' name and drivers' license into a state wide computer. The offender will not be able to renew his/her driver's license until the matter is resolved.
- A warrant can be served by any Peace officer in the State of Texas.

Help us Help You.....

- Get proper identification (driver's license, date of birth, race and gender.)
- Verify that the address and phone number are correct.
- Use caution when accepting temporary checks or checks for large purchases.
- Make sure all employees understand and are following your check acceptance policies.

