

§ 527.20

(1) Sections 5511-5512, title 5, United States Code.

(2) Section 1007, title 37, United States Code.

(3) Section 1382, title 18, United States Code.

(4) Articles 123a, 133, 134, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ, Art. 123a, 133, and 134).

(b) Debts to instrumentalities and agencies of the United States can be collected from military personnel by involuntary deductions from their pay when such action is authorized by law. (See Department of Defense Military Pay and Allowances Entitlements Manual (DODPM), part seven, chapter 7, and Department of Defense Retired Pay Manual (DODRPM).)

§ 527.20 General.

(a) DA policy is to give maximum service to persons entitled to use Army facilities. Installation activities extend check-cashing privileges for the convenience of their customers.

(b) The personal check is more than a simple promise to pay. By signing a check, the person makes a binding agreement to the receiver (in exchange for goods, services, or cash) that enough money to cover the check is in the person's account.

(c) The number of dishonored checks and the subsequent loss of funds to Army facilities call for firm measures to control and prevent dishonored checkwriting. Timely administrative action will be taken in all cases involving abuse or misuse of check-cashing privileges. Moral persuasion and command supervision will be used as primary measures to ensure dishonored checks are promptly redeemed and dishonored checkwriting ceases. Commanders will not tolerate or make excuses for dishonored checks issued by soldiers and their family members. Soldiers, their eligible family members, and other authorized patrons of Army facilities are expected to pay their just financial debts. Commanders will take immediate action to ensure prompt redemption of dishonored checks. They will counsel and take disciplinary action where appropriate to prevent abuse or fraud by soldiers under their command.

32 CFR Ch. V (7-1-99 Edition)

(d) Patrons who have abused check-cashing privileges will be given a chance to present evidence in their behalf. (See §§ 527.24 and 527.35.)

(e) Patrons may have their check-cashing privileges suspended indefinitely if they show a chronic attitude of personal and financial irresponsibility.

(f) If a person is found using an unstamped ID card during their suspension period and when they are required to have their card overstamped, the person's check-cashing privileges may be suspended indefinitely.

(g) Suspension procedures in this chapter do not preclude action under the UCMJ.

(h) All persons who abuse check-cashing privileges are subject to pertinent civil laws. Reported check-cashing abuses may be referred to civil law enforcement authorities or, if applicable under local U.S. procedures, to a U.S. magistrate. (See AR 190-29.)

§ 527.21 Two party checks.

When a two party check is returned "unpaid", the endorser may be subject to the dishonored check provision of this regulation only if the endorser fails to redeem the check within the grace period. If the original maker of the check is proven to have written a previous dishonored check, then an additional offense will be charged to the original maker and appropriate suspension imposed. If the endorser is currently under suspension, an additional offense will be charged and the suspension period will be increased. The endorser will be required to execute a consent statement to authorize collection from his/her pay if the two party check is returned for insufficient funds. The consent statement to be executed by the endorser is stated in § 527.17(d).

§ 527.22 Sponsor responsibility.

(a) Sponsors may be held liable for acts of family members when a family member uses their dependent ID card and their sponsor's SSN for check cashing. If a family member commits an offense under these conditions, the sponsor may then be placed on the dishonored checklist. The family member may be placed on the dishonored checklist in their own right if they

used a civilian ID card with their own SSN as identification and the check becomes dishonored.

(b) Sponsors who wish to disclaim responsibility for dishonored checks written by family members may do so by filing a letter of disclaimer with the ICCO. (See fig. 2-1 for a sample letter.) This letter announces a sponsor's voluntary withdrawal of responsibility for acts of family members. It will be updated annually. Absence of a disclaimer does not prove agency relationship between sponsor and family members.

(c) Some facilities may deny check-cashing privileges to family members of sponsors who have filed a letter of disclaimer. The sponsor will inform family members of this denial.

SECTION II—OFFENSES AND PENALTIES

§ 527.23 Offense and related offense.

(a) *Offense.* An offense has been committed when an individual does not redeem a dishonored check or redeems 3 or more checks within the grace period.

(b) *Related offense.* An individual may write several dishonored checks which are related. For example one error in the checkbook could cause several dishonored checks. All of these dishonored checks are considered related to each other and if not redeemed will be considered as a single offense. The individual must prove to the ICCO that the dishonored checks are related. If proof is not provided, each dishonored check will be considered an offense if not redeemed within the grace period. Related checks normally occur within a 10 day period.

§ 527.24 Bank or other excusable error.

If an individual can prove bank or other excusable error, dishonored checks resulting from these errors will not be considered offenses. The checkwriter's name will not be added to any list or central file.

§ 527.25 First offense.

(a) An individual who writes a check which later becomes dishonored and does not redeem it within the grace period has committed a first offense.

(b) An individual who writes 3 dishonored checks which are unrelated to each other and redeems them all within the grace period has committed a first offense.

(c) The penalty for a first offense is required attendance at remedial training and suspension of check-cashing privileges for 6 months from date of suspension letter. The ID card may be over stamped.

(d) The individual may be removed from the dishonored checklist prior to the end of the suspension period if the check has been redeemed, all charges have been paid, remedial training has been completed, the individual has passed the installation checkbook maintenance test, and the unit commander (for soldiers and family members) or first line supervisor (for civilians) approves.

§ 527.26 Second offense.

(a) An individual who writes a second dishonored check, unrelated to the first dishonored check, and does not redeem it within the grace period has committed a second offense.

(b) An individual who writes 4 dishonored checks which are unrelated to each other and redeems them all within the grace period has committed a second offense.

(c) The penalty for a second offense is required attendance at remedial training and suspension of check-cashing privileges for 12 months from date of suspension letter if checkwriter is not currently on the dishonored checklist. If the checkwriter is currently on the dishonored checklist, the suspension period will be increased by 12 months. The ID card may be over stamped.

(d) The individual may be removed from the dishonored checklist prior to the end of the suspension period if the check has been redeemed, all charges have been paid, remedial training has been completed, the individual passed the installation checkbook maintenance test, and the individual appointed by the installation commander (§ 527.10(f)) so approves.

§ 527.27 Third offense.

(a) An individual who writes a third dishonored check, unrelated to the previous dishonored checks, and does not