



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-12020013

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In February 2012 the National Science Foundation's Office of Budget, Finance and Award Management received a call from a grocery store chain<sup>1</sup> in Pennsylvania stating it had unsuccessfully attempted to deposit two checks<sup>2</sup> issued by NSF. These checks were cashed at two different stores<sup>3</sup> on two separate dates<sup>4</sup> by the payee named on the checks.<sup>5</sup> Both checks appeared to be drawn on an account with a global bank company,<sup>6</sup> but were returned by the bank because no such account existed. Due to the appearance of the checks, the store believed these checks were authentic and did not question the person cashing the checks. The grocery store contacted NSF to address this issue.

Upon review of this matter, NSF concluded that NSF does possess an account with the bank, the individual who cashed the checks is not an NSF employee, and the checks cashed were fraudulent. The NSF Office of Inspector General was contacted to investigate this matter. In the course of their investigation, NSF OIG referred the case to a federal agency<sup>7</sup> with extensive experience dealing with check fraud. Although the agency declined the case, it referred NSF OIG to State Officials<sup>8</sup> who are members of the Federal Crimes Task Force, to assist in the matter. NSF OIG collaborated with Task Force which led to the apprehension and conviction of the individual who cashed the fraudulent checks. The individual pled guilty to multiple state charges and in turn, received 18 months of probation through the State of Pennsylvania's Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition Program<sup>9</sup> and was ordered to pay restitution.<sup>10</sup>

Accordingly, this case is closed.

<sup>1</sup> [REDACTED]  
<sup>2</sup> One was \$964.14 the other was \$972.59  
<sup>3</sup> [REDACTED]  
<sup>4</sup> 1/27/2012 & 1/28/2012  
<sup>5</sup> [REDACTED]  
<sup>6</sup> [REDACTED]  
<sup>7</sup> United States Secret Service (USSS)  
<sup>8</sup> [REDACTED]  
<sup>9</sup> Sentencing occurred on 06/13/2013  
<sup>10</sup> \$1,936.73