

MONEY MANAGEMENT



Web Site Provides Checking Account Management Training

(NAPSA)—For most people, checking account ownership is a fundamental, yet essential component of money management. However, most people would agree that keeping an account in good standing isn't always a simple affair. Consider the following scenarios:

- Matt's check bounced because he lost track of how much money he had in his account.
- Sandy's check bounced because it cleared sooner than she had hoped.
- Mary had to replace her checks, credit and check cards because they were stolen.

The majority of problems with existing accounts, such as bounced checks, check fraud or misuse of ATM and debit cards, can be avoided through proper account management education. But, for people who have had to resolve an issue about their checking accounts, they've probably wondered if there was a faster and easier alternative to sitting on the phone in hopes of getting the answers they need.

Learning The Ropes

A recently launched Web site, Aboutchecking.com, was designed as a single stop for anyone looking for advice on a wide range of issues related to checking account ownership. Available in both English and Spanish, Aboutchecking.com helps people learn checking account fundamentals in a fun, understandable and interactive format.

Aboutchecking.com offers people in need of training a "checkbook basics demo" which enables them to learn about writing a check, using a check register,



endorsing checks, depositing funds, balancing a checkbook, and reviewing bank statements. The demo takes the Web-user through each one of these important functions step-by-step. The checkbook balancing section, for example, walks people through eight detailed steps starting with the review of cashed checks and comparing them to the statement.

Aboutchecking.com is sponsored by eFunds Corporation, a provider of electronic payment, risk management and related professional services. eFunds' services also help financial institutions prevent account fraud. Aboutchecking.com can also be used in a classroom as a comprehensive tool to teach young people the importance of proper checkbook management.

"With a growing array of financial products available on the market, it is crucial for consumers to have a solid knowledge of banking fundamentals, such as checking account management," said Gus Blanchard, chairman and chief executive officer, eFunds Corporation. "Aboutchecking.com reflects eFunds' dedication to helping consumers become savvy users of banking essentials,

allowing them to take advantage of more complex personal finance tools down the road."

Fraud Prevention

While financial institutions are responsible for fraud detection, identity theft often is the result of consumers' careless behavior. Aboutchecking.com cautions consumers about different forms of identity misuse such as stealing checks, bank account numbers, ATM numbers, and credit cards to forge loan and credit card applications, or perform fraudulent withdrawals from bank accounts. The Web site outlines the repercussions of stolen identity and advises consumers to avoid common practices which make them an easy target for potential fraud: owning multiple credit accounts, giving away personal information over the phone, and throwing away bank statements or receipts without destroying them first.

Getting Help

Aboutchecking.com also provides information on a variety of useful topics. It contains a comprehensive list of resources, including consumer agencies, banking institutions, credit bureaus, government institutions, and check printers.

Aboutchecking.com can be thought of as "Checking Account Management 101" offered online, free of charge. Laying the groundwork through fast and easy instruction on banking essentials, Aboutchecking.com provides a starting point for consumers on their way to building a more secure financial future for themselves and their families.