



PROTECT YOUR BUSINESS FROM FRAUD

Fraud takes many forms, from payments to emails to unauthorized transactions. It's crucial for businesses to recognize and prevent the threats.

Types of Fraud:

- **Check Fraud:** Counterfeit, altered, or forged checks.
- **ACH Fraud:** Unauthorized electronic transfers.
- **Invoice Fraud:** Fake invoices designed to steal money from businesses.
- **Phishing and Social Engineering:** Fraudulent emails, phone calls or messages attempting to steal sensitive information.
- **Insider Fraud:** Individuals within your organization exploit their access to company resources, information, or systems for personal gain.

Recognize the Red Flags:

Knowing the signs of fraud can help you act quickly to protect your business.

- Unusual account activity or transactions
- Invoices from unknown vendors
- Requests for immediate or unusual payment methods
- Unexpected emails requesting sensitive information
- Off-hours transactions
- Employee behavior

Protecting Your Business Best Practices:

- **Monitor Accounts:** Regularly review account statements and transactions.
 - In 2023, the most common source of payments fraud was an external source or individual (e.g., forged check, stolen card, corporate synthetic identity fraud.)*
 - ACH credits surpassed wire transfers as the most vulnerable payment type for Business Email fraud.*
- **Verify Payment Requests:** Especially those that are unusual or urgent.
- **Dual Control:** Two people to approve and authorize transactions.
- **Employee Training:** Educate everyone on fraud and how to recognize suspicious activity.
- **Secure Systems:** Use up-to-date security software and firewalls.

Utilize these MidWestOne Bank tools for detecting and preventing fraud:

- **Teller Line Positive Pay:** When asked to cash a check drawn on your account as a Positive Pay client, our tellers will validate the payee's name from the list you provided before doing anything.
- **Check Positive Pay:** Verifies checks being presented for payment against checks you have listed from your business and provides the ability to reject checks.
- **ACH Positive Pay:** Payments outside of set parameters will be flagged for review and can be accepted or rejected.
- **Payee Positive Pay:** Payees are matched to the company's issued checks presented for payment.
- **Business Credit Card:** Minimize risk and liability by reducing check payments.



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Stay One Step Ahead - Implement these practices to protect your business. For more information, contact our fraud prevention team at 800-247-4418.