

What you need to know about the Courtesy Overdraft Privilege (ODP) limit?

Good account management is the lowest cost way to protect your hard earned money. If overdraft protection is needed every now and then, ask the Credit Union about the service right for you.

- Avoid using ODP as a short term “loan.” It is a costly short-term solution.
- When overdrawing your account, get money back into your account as soon as possible. Remember to deposit enough money to cover both the amount of your overdraft, plus any fees.
- With Overdraft Privilege, please remember there is no obligation the Credit Union will cover your checks, Check Card or other electronic transactions that overdraw your account. ODP is a courtesy service and your relationship with the Credit Union must remain in good standing.

Three Simple Ways to Lower These Fees

1. Track your balances, deposits and spending habits carefully. Sign up for e-Banking e-Alerts or MoneySmart Alerts (our money management service within e-Banking) and receive an email or text message when your balance is getting low. These are free services.
2. Link a savings account to your checking account. When you overdraft your checking account, any available money will be automatically transferred first from your savings account to avoid overdrawing your account. A transfer fee will apply for each transfer, and Regulation D monthly limits apply to the amount of transfers allowed.
3. If you have Opted In to ODP coverage on Check Card transactions, consider opting out. Check Card transactions would be declined if funds are not available and no fee would be assessed. You can also request to opt out of all overdraft coverage.

Additional Resources for Good Money Management

FMFCU partners with **Clarifi**, a trusted local non-profit agency that provides counseling, workshops and budgeting assistance. Find their link on fmfcu.org under Member Support, Free Credit Counseling.

Please also visit mymoney.gov for online assistance and resources.

What to do if you have a problem or concern about Courtesy Overdraft Privilege programs?

If you have a concern, first try to resolve the problem directly at an FMFCU branch or by calling the Member Service Center. You may also contact our Chief Operations Officer at:

Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union
Attn: COO
5 Hillman Drive, Suite 100
Chadds Ford, PA 19317-9998

If unable to resolve the problem and want to file a formal complaint with the agency responsible for federal credit unions, you may:

Write:
National Credit Union Administration (NCUA)
Office of Consumer Protection
1775 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-3428

Call:
NCUA Consumer Assistance Center
800-755-1030

Email:
consumerassistance@ncua.gov

Fax:
703-518-6602



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Protecting Yourself from Overdraft and Bounced-Check Fees



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How do overdrafts and “bounced” checks occur?

When you:

- Write a check
- Make automatic bill payment or other electronic payment
- Use your Check Card to make a purchase
- Authorize an ACH debit
- Complete ATM Transactions

If any of these type of transactions are for more than the amount available in your checking account, you will overdraw your account. Check holds from recently deposited items can affect your available balance as well.

Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union (FMFCU) has the choice to either cover and pay the amount or return it. If the item is paid, even though there is not enough money available in the account, you may be charged an “overdraft privilege” fee. Funds must be in your account when a Check Card transaction is authorized. If your item is returned unpaid, you may be charged a “non-sufficient” fund fee (NSF).

The person or company you wrote the check to, or authorized the payment to – for example, a store, your landlord or phone company – may also charge you a “returned item” fee in addition to the FMFCU fee.

How can you avoid Overdraft Privilege and Non-Sufficient Fund fees?

The BEST way to avoid ODP and NSF fees is to manage your account without using money you don’t have and overdrawing your account.

- Keep track of how much money is in your checking account by keeping your check register up to date.
- Record all checks when you write them and other transactions when making them. Don’t forget to subtract any fees associated with the transactions.
- Pay special attention to electronic transactions. Record your ATM withdrawals and fees, Check Card purchases and online payments, as soon as they are made.
- Don’t forget about automatic bill payments set up utilities, insurance or loan payments.
- Review receipts when making deposits and take into account deposit check hold days.
- Keep an eye on your account balance.
- Remember when looking at your balance, some checks and automatic payments may not have cleared yet.

- Review your account statement each month. In addition to your account activity being listed, see how many NSF and/or ODP fees you have paid on your account to date.

You can find out which payments have cleared and your account balance anytime by contacting the Credit Union for your most up to date information via:

- PAT (Premier Access Telephone) @ 610-325-5100 or outside of PA 800-220-3193, Option #1
- e-Banking at fmfcu.org
- Mobile Banking
- e-Alerts (set up through e-Banking or MoneySmart)
- At an FMFCU branch

Be sure to find out the actual amount in your account, as your account balance will not include the amount of Overdraft Protection available.

What is the “Courtesy Overdraft Privilege (ODP) Program?”

Many financial institutions offer “courtesy overdraft privilege” (ODP) plans so that checks and electronic payments do not bounce and ATM/Check Card transactions* are approved. With FMFCU’s Overdraft Privilege (ODP), you will still pay an overdraft fee to the Credit Union for each item, but avoid fees passed along by the merchant such as a return check fee. The item being paid on your behalf will help you to stay in good standing with the people you do business with.

**ATM/Check Card transactions are only covered by the ODP limit, once you have requested this service by Opting In to this coverage. For additional information regarding ODP and Check Card transaction coverage, please contact your local branch or our Member Service Center for details.*

How much does the Overdraft Privilege (ODP) plan cost?

FMFCU charges a flat fee (see fee schedule) for each item covered. A dollar limit is set on the total amount your account may be overdrawn at any one time. For example, FMFCU may cover overdrafts up to the total of your ODP limit including all fees.

Example: You forgot your available checking account balance is \$15, you wrote a check for \$25, and used your Check Card to purchase \$30 worth of groceries.

In these two transactions you’ve spent a total of \$55 and overdrawn your account by \$40. How much will your forgetfulness cost you?

If your checking account has ODP, including Check Card OPT in, FMFCU may decide to cover both transactions. Each of the 2 overdrafts will trigger a fee. You will owe the \$40 you spent, even though not in your account, plus the 2 overdraft fees. If for example the overdraft fee is \$35 per overdraft, you will owe \$110: \$40+\$70 (2x35).

What are some other options available to cover overdrafts?

FMFCU does provide other ways of covering overdrafts that are less expensive. You may be able to:

- Link your checking account to a Personal Line of Credit (PLOC). You need to apply for a line of credit just like a regular loan. If you overdraw your account, FMFCU will lend you the funds by using your PLOC to cover the overdraft. You will pay interest on the line advance, but there is no annual fee. The overall costs may be less than the cost of the Overdraft Privilege Program depending on when you pay back the line advance.
- Link a savings account to your checking for access in the case of an overdraft. FMFCU will advance the funds from your savings to cover activity in your checking account. These transactions will be subject to transfer fees and are subject to monthly limits, based on other electronic withdrawals in your savings account under federal Regulation D.

Ways to cover your Overdrafts	Examples of possible cost for each
Good account management	\$0
Personal Line of Credit	No annual fee + Variable Annual Percentage Rate (APR)
Link a savings account to your checking	Transfer fee and Regulation D limits apply
Courtesy Overdraft Privilege (ODP)	\$35 per item

***Amounts listed are illustrations. Please ask us about specific fees, or see our Fee Schedule at fmfcu.org.*