



County of Gloucester Treasurer's Policy

Subject	Coin Acceptance Policy
Policy Number	16-01
Original Effective Date	July 14, 2016
Revision Date	
Historical Reference	

Introduction

From time to time, a citizen will request to pay their debts to the County in coins (i.e. pennies, nickels, etc.). As a result, the Gloucester County Treasurer has adopted this coin acceptance policy as a means of maintaining office efficiency.

The Coinage Act of 1965, specifically Section 31 U.S.C. 5103, entitled "Legal Tender", states: "United States coins and currency (including Federal Reserve notes and circulating notes of Federal Reserve Banks and national banks) are legal tender for all debts, public charges, taxes and dues." This statute means that all United States money as identified are valid and legal offer of payment for debts when tendered to a creditor. However, according to the United States Department of Treasury (<https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/faqs/Currency/Pages/legal-tender.aspx>), there is no Federal statute mandating that a private business, a person or an organization must accept currency or coins for the payment of goods and/or services. Therefore, businesses are free to develop their own policies on whether or not to accept cash or certain types of cash unless there is a State law which says otherwise. The Code of Virginia contains no such provision.

There are also court cases (State v. Carroll and Martin v. Rhode Island Co.) which upheld the interpretation of Section 31 that one cannot successfully argue to pay a grocery bill or a utility bill of any size with pennies on the grounds that pennies are legal tender. The necessity of counting and rolling the coins would bring commerce and government to a halt.

Coin Acceptance

Therefore, in order to maintain the efficient operation of the office, the Gloucester County Treasurer's Office will not accept unrolled coins in excess of 100 coins on a given business day for any debts owed to the County by a citizen or business. Citizens making payments to the Treasurer's Office in coin will be required to remain present during the completion of the transaction until a receipt is presented to them. With respect to rolled coin, the Treasurer's Office will require proper identification to be placed on each roll (i.e. name and account number of the account being paid). A maximum of 20 rolls will be accepted on a given business day. Additionally, an affidavit of payment will be completed by the person making the payment acknowledging his/her responsibility for all identified shortages upon payment validation by the County's bank.