If written as "Pay to Rahul or Anjali", either one can withdraw the amount.

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4 Order Cheque vs. Bearer Cheque

Cheque Type	Payment Conditions	
Order Cheque	Requires endorsement from payee; identity verification	
	needed.	
Bearer	No endorsement needed; anyone can encash it.	
Cheque		

# **Example:**

Mr. Gupta presents a bearer cheque at the bank. Since it's a bearer cheque, he does not need any ID.

Ms. Pooja presents an order cheque. The bank asks for ID proof before making the payment.

# 5 Amount in Words & Figures

The amount **must match** in words and figures.

If there's a mismatch, the amount in words is final (as per Sec. 18, NIA).

# Example: Cheque reads: 10,000" in figures but Ten Thousand Five Hundred" in words. Bank will reject the chequel

**Crossed cheques** must be deposited **into a bank account**, not encashed directly.

A cheque without crossing can be encashed at the counter.

**Example:** A cheque with "A/C Payee Only" can only be deposited in the named payee's account. No cash withdrawal allowed!

#### 7 Endorsements & Alterations

Endorsements (signing on the back) must be proper.

Any material alteration (date, amount, payee name) must be authenticated with the drawer's full signature.

**Example:** If **Rohan alters the date** on a cheque, but **does not sign** next to the change, **the cheque will be rejected**.

# Mutilation & Damage

A torn cheque may be accepted if the drawer confirms its validity.

If a collecting bank **accidentally tears** a cheque, it must **guarantee the mutilation** by endorsing "Mutilation Guaranteed".

**Example:** Mr. Sharma accidentally tears his cheque while taking it out of his wallet. He confirms it to the bank, and since all details are visible, the cheque is processed.

#### 9 Signature of the Drawer

The drawer's signature must match the bank's records.

A forged signature = No mandate to pay!

**Example:** 

**Fake signature on a cheque?** The bank **cannot** process it and must **return it unpaid**.

Case Law: Canara Bank vs Canara Sales Corporation (1987)

Supreme Court ruling – If the drawer's signature is forged, the bank has no mandate to pay, and it cannot debit the customer's account.







## **Stop Payment Instructions**

Countermanding

If the drawer gives a stop-payment instruction, the bank must not process the cheque.

For **joint accounts**, **any one** of the holders can request a stop payment.

For partnership firms, all partners must agree to cancel a stop payment.

Rahul writes a cheque for ₹20,000 but later realizes he Example: made an error. He calls the bank to stop the payment. Bank will return the cheque unpaid.

11 Checking for Legal Attachments

The bank must ensure:

Sufficient balance is available.

No legal orders (e.g., Garnishee Orders, Income Tax Attachment Orders) prevent payment.

No notices of death, insolvency, or insanity of drawer have been received.

**Example:** If **Mr. Ramesh's account** has an **Income Tax Department** attachment order, the bank cannot honor any cheque from that account.

# **Summary Table – Cheque Payment Guidelines**

Aspect to Check	Explanation	
Branch of	Should match the account branch unless Core	
Presentation	Banking System (CBS) is used.	
Date	Post-dated & stale cheques cannot be paid.	
Payee	Joint payees must sign together; alternative payees	
	can encash individually.	
Amount in Words &	If they differ, amount in words is considered final.	
Figures		
Crossed Cheques	Must be deposited into an account, not withdrawn.	
Endorsements	Must be proper; any alteration requires drawer's	
	signature.	
Stop Payment	If requested, the cheque must not be processed.	
Legal Attachments	If any legal order is in place, cheque payment must	
	be stopped.	



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Payment in Due Course (Sec. 10) & Liability of Paying

Bank (Sec. 31)

What is Payment in Due Course? (Sec. 10)

A banker gets **legal protection** if the cheque payment is made **"in due** course", as per Sec. 10 of the Negotiable Instruments Act (NIA), 1881.

#### **Definition:**

"Payment in due course" means payment as per the apparent tenor of the instrument, in good faith and without negligence, to a person **entitled** to receive the payment.

# **Key Elements of Payment in Due Course:**

	Element	Sec lo Proc Meaning
#1	Apparent Tenor	Payment must follow the cheque details (date, payee
ना न		name, amount in words & figures, crossings, etc.).
+2	Good Faith & No	The banker must act honestly & carefully. Any
H.	Negligence	negligence (e.g., crediting an account without verifying
		details) removes protection.
#3	Payment to	Payment must be made to the rightful holder of the
10	Holder in Due	cheque.
	Course	
HA	Entitled to	No reason should exist to doubt the payee's legal right
XI I	Receive Payment	to receive payment.
	,	

# Example of Good Faith in Payment

If a customer deposits ₹50,000 but mistakenly writes the wrong A/C number, the banker must verify details before crediting the wrong account. Failing to do so = Negligence, no protection .

Case Law Example: Pranendu Mohan Das vs. Central Bank of India (1978)

A customer accused a bank of paying a **forged cheque** despite his **stop payment request**. The court ruled in favor of the **bank** as it had **acted diligently**, ensuring due verification before payment.

# Liability of Paying Banker (Sec. 31)

The drawee bank (the bank where the cheque is presented) must honor a cheque if:

Sufficient funds are available.

**No legal restrictions** exist (e.g., stop payment, garnishee orders).

If a bank wrongly dishonors a cheque, it must compensate the customer for any financial loss or damage.

A cheque cannot be honored in the following cases:

	Reason	Description	
#t1_	Stop Payment	Customer instructs the bank not to pay a specific cheque.	
TI	Order	) end of Banker-Cushomer relationship	
#2	Death of O	If a bank receives official notification of the account	
भा ( ,	Drawer	holder's death, payments must be stopped.	
πω	Garnishee	If a court freezes the account, no cheque payments can be	
#7	Order	made.	
HA-	Earmarked	Funds kept aside for specific purposes cannot be used for	
भाग	Funds (M)	cheque payment.	
пК	Bank's Set-	If the account holder owes money to the bank, the bank can	
#2	Off Rights	use funds to settle dues instead of honoring cheques.	
	re	Cocon or desires	

Mr. Sharma issues a cheque for ₹10,000, but the Income **Example:** Tax Department attaches his account for ₹50,000 dues. The bank cannot clear the cheque as funds are legally blocked.

1 Protection in Case of Forged Endorsements in Order Cheques (Sec.

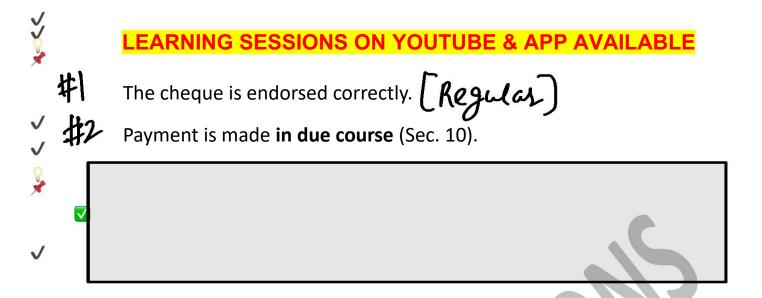
85(1))

If a cheque is payable to order, the bank is protected if it verifies

that:

To check genuines of endossement Collecting Bank

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2 Protection in Case of Forged Endorsements in Bearer Cheques (Sec. 85(2))

A **bearer cheque** can be cashed by **anyone who presents it**, no endorsement is required.

The bank is not liable for any forged endorsements on a bearer cheque.

**Example:** 

was originally issued to Ramesh, the bank is not liable since it was a bearer cheque.

#imp

3 Protection for Forged Endorsements in Bank Drafts (Sec. 85A)

A bank issuing a demand draft is protected if the draft seems regularly endorsed and paid in due course.

**Example:** 

Bank issues a draft payable to "XYZ Ltd." If fraudsters forge XYZ

Ltd.'s signature, but the bank paid as per usual process, it is not liable.

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# 4 Protection Against Material Alteration (Sec. 89)

If a cheque **appears regular** but contains a **hidden alteration**, the **bank is protected** if it **pays as per original instructions**.

Cheque alterations NOT allowed under CTS (Cheque Truncation System):

Changing the payee name. #1

Modifying the amount. #2

Altering the cheque date. #3

Example: Cheque for ₹10,000 is altered to ₹90,000, but the alteration is not visible. Bank pays ₹90,000. The bank is not liable if it acted in due course.

5 Protection for Crossed Cheques (Sec. 128 & 129)

If a cheque is crossed, the bank must pay only to another bank, not to an individual.

If the bank **mistakenly** pays a **crossed cheque to an individual**, it **loses protection**.

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**Example** Mr. X issues a cheque crossed "A/C Payee Only" to Mr.

Y. If the bank mistakenly allows cash withdrawal, it is liable for the loss.

Bank pays a crossed cheque to ABC Bank for collection – Payment is valid.

# **Summary Table – Paying Banker's Liability & Protection**

Protection	When It Applies?	Example
Forgery in Order	If payment is made to an	Rohan endorses Ajay's cheque
Cheques (Sec.	apparent endorsee in due	to Deepak (but forgery). Bank
85(1))	course.	is protected if process
0	course. In dozsements Rejulo	followed.
Forgery in Bearer	If cheque is payable to	"Pay ₹5,000 to bearer" cheque
Cheques (Sec.	bearer, no endorsement	is lost & encashed. Bank is not
85(2))	check needed.	liable.
Forgery in Drafts	If the draft appears to be	Demand draft forged but bank
(Sec. 85A)	correctly endorsed & paid	followed process – No liability.
	in due course.	
Material	If the cheque appears	₹1,000 cheque altered to
Alteration (Sec.	normal but was altered	₹10,000. Bank not liable if
89)	later.	unaware.



Payment of Must be paid only to a Crossed cheque cashed by an

Crossed Cheque bank. individual = Bank is liable.

(Sec. 128)