

## **Transforming Currency**

The reasons for transforming small denomination currency into another form of legal tender is so very important to criminals. This includes individuals involved in both legal and illegal sources of income. For example, a restaurant owner who is skimming cash (gross receipts) from his business establishment also wants to conceal his activity to avoid paying income taxes at the federal and state levels. A drug trafficker needs to convert street money (small denomination currency) into large denomination currency in order to pay his source of supply for his illegal drug shipments. The purpose of converting small denomination currency into large denomination currency is to make it much easier for the criminal to conceal, transport and transfer the currency to avoid detection by law enforcement officials. In addition to the perpetrator violating currency laws, he/she may also violate other federal laws in the process of transforming currency. If certain criteria are met, then money laundering is also a crime that carries long prison sentences and heavy fines.

## **Bulk & Weight of United States Currency**

Note that 490 United States currency bills (any denomination) = 1 Pound

Therefore, to secretly transport only \$100,000 in denominations ranging from \$5 bills to \$50 bills means:

<b>Column A</b>	<b>Column B</b>	<b>Column C</b>	<b>Column D</b>
<b>Dollar Value</b>	<b>Denomination Value</b>	<b>Number of Currency Bills (Column A/C)</b>	<b>Weight of Currency Bills in Column C</b>
\$20,000 in	\$5 bills	4,000 bills	8.16 Pounds
\$30,000 in	\$10 bills	3,000 bills	6.12 Pounds
\$30,000 in	\$20 bills	1,500 bills	3.06 Pounds
\$20,000 in	\$50 bills	400 bills	<1.00 Pound
<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>Various</b>	<b>8,900 bills</b>	<b>&gt; 18.34 Pounds</b>

The above-referenced table shows a bulk of 8,900 United States currency bills of various denominations weighs slightly over 18 pounds.

## Transforming Currency - Continued

Hence, the smaller the denominations of the currency, the greater the bulk and the weight of the currency becomes to conceal and transport. This in turn increases the risk of discovery, confiscation and arrest of the criminal.

Let's compare that to the following: \$100,000 in \$100 bills = 1,000 bills = 2.04 pounds.

Compare that to the following: Transporting a paper negotiable instrument (Cashier's Check) or a precious gem (such as a diamond) worth \$100,000 = <1 **Ounce** and **no bulk**.

Compare that to the following: An electronic transfer (wire transfer) of \$100,000 anywhere in the world disguised as a legitimate business transaction = **PRICELESS!**

This article demonstrates the necessity for currency laws in the United States and other countries. To the law-biding citizens, these laws may sometimes be a nuisance but are very necessary in combating organized crime. These organized crime groups are responsible for murder, mayhem and destruction of human lives both within the United States and other countries throughout the world.