

## Life... Can't cash a money order

**Situation:**

We live in England, and a good friend of ours from the U.S. sent us an international money order for our son's first birthday. The idea was that we could buy something that Danny really wanted or needed. That was in May. Now it's October. We've tried to cash the money order at several banks and the post office. No one will cash it for us.

Now that it's been five months, I am more than a bit embarrassed to let our friend John know that we haven't bought anything yet because we haven't been able to cash the cheque. Yet I know that there's \$50.00 literally lost in space, or in this case in the pockets of the U.S. postal service that issued the money order. John spent the money, now he doesn't have it and neither do we. What can I do?

**Answer:**

*It will be uncomfortable for you to tell John what's happened. But the fact is, it would not have been too comfortable to talk to him about the situation even if it was only a month after Danny's birthday. When someone does something nice for us, we really don't want the job of telling them that their good intentions didn't work out as planned.*

*You may want to rehearse what you're going to say beforehand. Remember, you're not complaining to John, you're simply explaining the problems you've run into. Are you afraid of what John might think after you tell him what the situation is? If you are, I can bet your mind is full of negative "what ifs." Why not change the insecure thought, "John will be disappointed," to a secure thought, "John might be disappointed and he'll do what he can to make it right."*

*Of course John will be disappointed, it's a natural human response for him to have! Look at the situation realistically and give the man some credit. He's your friend. He was kind enough to remember your son's birthday and send a gift. John doesn't want the money lost in space any more than you do. Email or call him – he'll probably be very glad you did.*