



## Community Watch For Fake IDs

Most perpetrators using fake ID's are underage children who wish to buy illegal or restricted items. These items are alcohol and cigarettes. Other ways for these children to get their hands on these restricted items while appearing cool with their peers is to go to restricted clubs and bars and ordering alcohol there. The ages of children who use fake identification cards to drink and smoke have grown younger since the last few years.

A different way that the underage teenagers use to buy restricted goods is to use someone else's driver's license or passport. They need to look somewhat alike with the person in the picture though, to be able to pull off this stunt. This is the more (1) [dangerous part of using someone else's ID](#). While you are in the possession of you friend's ID or a stolen ID, in case of an accident you will be misidentified. Other worse case scenarios of using a stolen identification card like a credit card or driver's license is if the person you stole the card from is wanted for a crime or if they have already reported the credit card as lost.

In some part of the United States, it is illegal to even purchase or have a fake ID in your possession. Using a fake ID to buy restricted items can result to going to jail, or a hefty fine or even suspension of your real driver's license if you have one. Recently, police and other local authorities have been on the alert for underage drinking, purchase of cigarettes or tobacco and the manufacture of fake ID's. This is because it has escalated from a few kids going out for a drink to numerous children as young as 13 years old drinking hard liquor in the middle of the afternoon in full view of other people. There is now blatant disregard for authority and the law.

In some countries in Europe the sale of novelty cards is still allowed since these so called novelty cards claim to have no resemblance whatsoever to real ID's. The company that sells these novelty cards maintains copyright of the "novelty cards" templates and designs. In the United States of America, selling of fake ID cards are prohibited and so is their manufacture. Anybody who is caught selling and producing these face charges and heavy fines. The usual identification card that is accepted in the United States of America is the driver's license. American authorities have now implemented (2) [stricter rules regarding the use of fake](#) or tampered identification cards to purchase alcohol or cigarettes. This is because more and more children are taking the risk of using fake ID's just to buy and consume liquor and cigarettes.

Due to the increase in publicity and fines of underage drinking, even the bars and clubs that serve minors alcoholic drink and allow them to enter have had increased penalties. The least penalty for peddling liquor to underage children was made into a ten day license suspension for the club or establishment or a \$7,500 fine. This is comparable to the previous penalty of just 4 days' suspension and the \$5,000 fine.

Recently, the use of fake ID's in connection to underage drinking has spiraled upwards and the authorities have had a hard time stopping this. One of the main reasons is that some parents believe that their older children can drink as long as they are in their house and they often serve alcoholic drinks during parties in their homes. It is this misguided thinking that often encourages older children to seek fake ID's and use them to enter restricted bars and clubs and continue what they have been taught at their homes.

Several makers of fake ID's have been caught especially those who advertise their wares in the internet. The makers of fake ID's that are in the streets may be a bit harder to catch than the ones with IP addresses. The makers who are in the streets have runners who advertise their wares for them. These runners, who do not carry any fake ID's for sale, might be encountered in parks and other public places and they often approach a teenager and ask if they want to get a fake ID. Once the teenager agrees, he is asked to go to another place where his picture is taken by another person. After this, the teen is asked to wait for around an hour while somewhere in the vicinity, his fake ID is being made. It is a roundabout way that can be confusing to authorities who try to follow them.



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- (1) [http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2005-2009/2007PSSG0051-000845.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2007PSSG0051-000845.htm)
- (2) <http://www.cnn.com/US/9907/12/underage.drinking/>