



Control your Business and Fake ID Use

If you run a liquor store or a bar, chances are, you run in to minors trying to pass as adults to be able buy alcoholic drinks using fake IDs. It is estimated that 3 to 5 young people are caught flashing fake IDs while trying to enter bars. There are no estimates as to how many are not caught. This should give you a rough idea of how popular it is for minors to try and get away with drinking alcohol using Fake IDs.

With the strong possibility that you have minors buying liquor from your establishment, you open your business to greater risks. If law enforcers catch minors purchasing liquor in your establishment you can also be arrested along with them.

If you think it harmless to allow these minors to have a few drinks and also do not wish to turn down the added business, think again. Even if minors present a good quality fake ID to go in to your establishment to have some drinks, you may still be liable if caught. Because even if this was done under false pretenses, with the use of fake IDs, you will still be in a difficult situation, as you will have to prove that you and your staff thoroughly checked the minor's ID and were fooled in to thinking that it was real. To convince law enforcers of this, they must be convinced themselves that the fake ID does look genuine and hard to detect.

Besides, if you let one minor with a fake ID to go through, he will definitely spread the word to others. Soon more minors will test if they can get in your business using fake IDs. And as more and more minors do get in, you get a bigger chance of catching law enforcer's attention, which will lead them to check out your business.

If caught, it could lead to heavy fines, suspension of your business for several days or even months, or much worse, permanent (1) [revocation of your liquor license](#). These consequences definitely have a big impact on the sales of your business, which could even lead to bankruptcy.

As such, you and your staff should take extra effort at going through IDs of young people going to your establishment. Train your staff on how to spot Fake IDs. Always check the IDs of anyone who looks 21 year old and below. When checking the ID, start with the hologram, it should be flat and not raised. Also check the state logo, if it looks altered or has parts missing, it must be altered. (2) [Check the details of the ID](#), if there is a signature of an authorizing official is printed more than ones; say one in front and one at the back check that the names and the signatures are the same. Check that the photo and other personal info match the holder, the photo, height and weight, if indicated should match the person in front of you. For driver's licenses, check the date of issue and the date of expiration, most are issued every 4 years. Check the quality of the lamination. See if there are glue lines or if there are bumpy areas on the surface, which often indicates that it has been tampered, if the plastic is peeling from the paper it is also an indication that it is a fake. Check the consistency of the typeset used, sometimes lettering used on one area is different on another, for example the front and the back of the ID.

If it seems the ID presented looks real but you still have doubts, do not hesitate to double check. Ask the person for another ID. Or better yet, have several genuine IDs on hand to compare with the ones being presented.

Another way of making sure is to question the person presenting the ID. Ask about details found on the ID they are presenting, such as date of birth, complete name or address. Sometimes these young people are so sure of themselves that they think by just presenting the fake ID they can fool you with out even bothering to check the details that are in it. There are even several actual situations where the holder gave a different name from that indicated on the Fake ID. They gave their real name when questioned and forgot to check the name indicated on the Fake ID they presented.



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If you, or your staff, do catch a Fake ID, do not merely confiscate it and throw out the holder. Keep the Fake ID then try to detain the holder while you call the local authorities. Give the fake ID to the local authorities. By doing this you discourage other minors to try and get in to your establishment. You also create a good reputation with the local authorities so that in case they do catch a minor in your business, they will be less suspicious of you and your business.

- (1) <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/police/media/bb26.htm>
- (2) <http://www.lexingtonpolice.lfucg.com/Invest/IDfraud.asp>