



## Home Watch on Fake IDs

There are many petty crimes in which older children are privy to. In this day and age, they are getting more and more exposed to factors that trigger these petty crimes. One of the more common of these petty crimes where older children usually figure in is the use of fake ID. More and more children, some as young as 12 years old, acquiring fake identification cards.

The reasons they have for either making their own fake ID or buying it if to be able to purchase alcoholic beverages and cigarettes or to be able to enter bars and clubs which are restricted from underage children. The age of children who consume alcohol has now risen; they are as young as 12 years old in some communities other the United States of America. The reasons for this rise in (1) [underage drinking are mainly peer pressure](#) and some parents condoning this. Parents often view drinking as a rite of passage and a common occurrence for teens. They believe that as long as they allow their children to consume or taste alcoholic beverages in their houses they will not look for more outside of it.

Another reason why parents condone drinking in their children is that they believe they can control their child's drinking by being the first one to introduce it. These are misconceptions that have long been some of the reasons for underage drinking. Most states in the US are now prosecuting parents who may be instrumental to accidents caused by underage drinking. The authorities will also charge parents who serve their children and their guests' alcoholic beverages in their homes. Even those parents who did not purchase the beverages but allow underage children to consume them in their presence or in their house will find themselves doing jail time or facing fines.

The other reason why some teens resort to using fake identification cards or fake driver's licenses is to get into restricted clubs and bars that impose the no entry rule to underage older children. In most, if not all, states of the United States of America, the age limit for purchasing alcoholic beverages is 21 years old. Clubs and bars that allow underage children into their premises face hefty fines and penalties if caught. Some of the penalties they could face are suspension of their license to operate for a maximum of ten days and a fine of more than \$5,000 if they are caught with minors in their establishment and they have been served alcoholic beverages or they have purchased alcoholic beverages. This is the reason why security in clubs and bars have gotten more strict regarding checking the identification cards of their patrons as they enter their premises and when they purchase alcoholic drinks. Security personnel and bartenders often sequester or confiscate fake ID's when they are used in their premises and throw out the bearers of the fake ID.

Usually, with underage children using fake ID's, only the date of birth is altered in the fake ID or fake driver's license. In the US, the usual identification presented is the driver's license. One of the easier to copy driver's license is the format of the license from New Jersey. Many internet sites boast of having templates which can match genuine identification cards most especially driver's license.

Other reasons for acquiring fake ID's may be for nefarious criminal reasons like to assume another identity to elude capture and arrest. Some wanted criminals need to use fake ID's to be able to blend well with the common people. Another kind of (2) [acquisition of a fake ID](#) is usually done by criminals who can not get a job and find themselves needing to get a new identity to be able to start with a clean slate. Some employers do not hire applicants who have a criminal record, citing unreliability and trust issues. Illegal immigrants who need documentation and identification to be able to work and earn money will also need fake ID's and documentation.

Some underage children and criminals get their fake ID's from the internet. This is easy to do especially when the site is outside the US, where the laws governing it are different from the American jurisdiction. For those internet sites that are based in the US, some have already been stopped from peddling templates for similar, if not actual, driver's license in the United States. Other sites sell novelty or souvenir identification cards that



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look official. These novelty or souvenir cards are required by law to have disclaimers on them saying they are not official or even legal to use.

- (1) <http://family.samhsa.gov/set/prosecuting.aspx>
- (2) <http://www.madd.org/laws>