



## Know the Issue behind Fake IDs

Many of us do not take the thriving fake ID business very seriously. For some, it is an industry that they have never encountered or may be even never heard of. For others it is something that has not affected them directly and so, although they are aware of it, it is not of great importance. Only those who have either benefited or been harmed by this business is it of great importance.

But even those who have benefited from the business are not fully aware of its repercussion on society. Many have take advantage of getting fake driver's licenses for the purpose of getting a drink in a bar simply because they could not wait until they reach the age of 21. This simple and, for many, harmless act of purchasing a fake ID for the purpose of getting a chance to get a drink actually has bigger consequences than we think. We are, in effect, condoning a business that can ruin many lives which includes our own.

The same people who make these fake driver's licenses also make other fake identification documents. Having the (1) [technology to mass-produce fake IDs](#), it is only natural for these businesses to look for other sources of income using the same resources to maximize their investment. It is very likely that the quantity sale comes from driver's licenses but the quality sale comes from other clients, wanting more sophisticated IDs for far more serious crimes.

Fake IDs can be used for other, far more sinister, criminal acts. For example these fake IDs can be used to attain a credit card. To do this, identity theft is also utilized. Personal information of another person is used to make several fake documents including fake IDs. This will be used in applying for the credit card. Once the credit card application is approved and the card is attained, the holder uses it until the entire credit line is maxed up. After that, they just move on to another victim. It is very difficult to catch these types of thieves because for all intents and purposes, they are not doing anything illegal ones they have the credit card. And the act is only discovered when the actual owner of the identity is informed of the purchases from a credit card he did not even have.

Fake IDs can also be used to get insurance or social security benefits. Again, by stealing another person's identity and making fake IDs of the person, the criminal can use it to apply for insurance and social security benefits that are supposed to be granted to the person whose identity was stolen.

A more dangerous purpose for fake IDs is terrorism. Terrorists and their cohorts need to travel a lot either to achieve their terrorist objectives or to escape getting caught by authorities. To do this, they need to present false Identity documents to deceive the authorities. And they usually have several different set of fake Identity documents for multiple purposes. Having fake IDs is necessary for them to achieve their goal of striking terror.

For those who purchase fake driver's license or other fake IDs just to get a drink, you may think that you are very much different from these criminals. After all, you are doing it just to gain a small benefit that you actually pay for and you do not mean any harm to others by doing it. But there are those who believe that by (2) [purchasing these fake IDs](#), you are actually supporting the business that these criminals and terrorists rely on, that when you buy a fake driver's license, you actually condone identity theft and terrorism.

There are those who think that instead of buying from these businesses, people should help shut them down. If people stop buying then the business loses income until it may eventually shutdown. Also report them to law enforcement authorities if you happen to encounter any. Doing these things may not shut down the industry all together but it will at least lower their numbers. This will make it easier for law enforcement authorities to flush the remaining ones out in the open.



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At present and in many countries, it is legal to make and sell fake IDs for as long as they are no knowingly used for the purpose of fraud. This is why fake IDs are sold as novelty items and are supposedly not to be used as a replacement for legitimate IDs. So until the laws are fixed, we should do our part to put a stop to this industry.

- (1) <http://www.ta3info.org/>
- (2) <http://chronicle.com/free/2002/03/2002032701t.htm>