



Reviewing Laws on Fake IDs

Fake ID's have been in the spotlight so much nowadays that it seems the underage children using these are flaunting their knowledge and use of them. They do not seem to care if the bouncers or security guards or bartenders of the bars and clubs they go to confiscate these because they know where they can get more. Many underage children and young adults are caught by the bars and clubs security and bartenders but most of the time they just get kicked out of the bars and they have their fake ID's confiscated from them. He kids do not know just how lucky they are that this is the most of their punishment. If the law were to be followed to the letter, the punishment would be more for them and for the club owners.

The use of fraudulent birth certificates and driver's licenses are subject to the United States of America laws which states that :

- It is illegal to use another person's identification as one's own.
- It is illegal to have in one's possession a fake ID or sell a fake or counterfeit ID for the purpose of establishing a false identity.
- Individuals in possession, in use of or is distributing fake IDs will be charged with a Class 1 misdemeanor. If the fake or counterfeit identification is used to purchase a firearm, the charges will be increased to a Class 6 felony.
- It is illegal to possess, (1) [produce or distribute a falsified](#) document that may be misconstrued as a real official government document.
- Violators of this law faces Class 1 misdemeanor charges for the sale or production of such ID and Class 2 misdemeanor charges for possession of such ID.

Regarding the purchase of alcoholic beverages:

- Underage individuals found using a falsified DMV driver's license or military or university identification card to buy alcoholic beverages could face conviction of a Class 3 misdemeanor.
- Convicted and guilty individuals may lose their driver's license for thirty days to one year.
- It is illegal for anyone under 21 years of age to have in their possession any alcoholic beverage.
- No one under 21 may use a tampered or a fake ID such as a DMV driver's license, birth certificate or student identification card to establish a false identification or false age to purchase any alcoholic beverages.
- Violators of this section will be found guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor and, upon conviction, face a fine of at least \$500 or fifty hours of community service, and can lose their driver's license for up to a year.

The laws stated above apply to individuals who wish to use fake identification cards and documents in order to purchase restricted items. As for retailers and sellers of alcoholic beverages, they are also obligated to carefully study the identification presented to them upon purchase of alcoholic beverages, cigarettes and other restricted items. Clerks and bartenders can sell items depending on:

- Whether another ordinary person will doubt that the would be buyer is of legal age based on appearance
- Whether the would be buyer presents the right identification upon request and appears to be the individual pictured on the document and of the legal age (21 for alcohol; 18 for tobacco products)
- Whether the identification is in proper order and has not been tampered and has not expired.

In the event of suspicion or doubts of the (2) [authenticity of the ID](#), the bartender or store clerk can ask for additional identification from the individual involved and compare the data on the two identifications presented.



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The Legal Drinking Age of individuals used to be originally 21 years of age since 1934. In 1974, the LDA was lowered to 18 years of age for beer but still at 21 for wine and other alcoholic beverages. In 1983, the Legal Drinking Age was changed yet again, to 19 years of age. Finally, the LDA was changed to 21 years of age in the year 1987. This is so up until this very day and this is one of the major reasons why there are so many fake identification cards and documents. This reason does not justify the faking of the cards and other documentation, though. A law is the law, no matter what and it is implemented for the safety of the majority.

Another reason for fake ID's and documentation are for illegal immigrants and criminals to acquire work and other nefarious purposes. Terrorism is one of the more successful results of fake and counterfeit identification.

- (1) <http://www.abc.state.va.us/facts/fakeid.html>
- (2) http://www.smu.edu/healthcenter/alcholeducation/adp_fakeid.asp