



# THE NET

Lincoln Business Watch



## Fake ID's—They Can Affect Everyone

A lot of times people think fake ID's don't cause problems. People think of it as a kid trying to purchase alcohol or cigarettes and it's against the law, but nothing to be too concerned about. With the evolution of identity theft, it has become a huge issue in the United States. LPD recently worked a case of false ID's that started out as something small with college kids ordering fake ID's over the internet from the Philippines. It is still an ongoing investigation but what we do know is the students made a large order of the fake ID's and there are different names on the ID's, to avoid being traced back to the owner. We are finding out the names on the fake ID's are people who are victims of identity theft from across the country.

LPD located the website the ID's are being ordered from and found some interesting information. The order includes two ID's so if one is confiscated, there is a backup. In addition, the company will replace every ID for three months from the time of the order. To receive the ID, the customer sends a digital photo of themselves along with a signature. Once the information and payment is received, the cards are shipped within a few days. The front of the card is in proper format including the correct hologram. The only flaw noted is on the back of the card is blank except for a black strip and a bar code. According to the website, the ID's are programmed to scan and will pass the "blacklight" test as well. So far, the ID's are from sixteen states and they are as follows: Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

This may not be a big issue in most businesses but if a student gets a good idea about fraudulent activity and uses the ID to open false bank accounts, lines of credit, loans, etc. this can affect your business as well. Since the ID has no correct information, finding the actual suspect may be impossible. If someone presents you with a possible fake ID, please call the police to verify the person's identity. It may be a person attempting to make a purchase of alcohol or cigarettes, or it may be someone who has hit several businesses in town with counterfeit checks, money, etc. and your business could become a victim.

There are ordinances and statutes that cover false identification. Here are a few of them below:

### **9.048.020 Furnishing False ID.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to lend a motor vehicle operator's license, birth certificate, selective service registration card, or other identification document, to any minor for the use of such minor in obtaining or attempting to obtain alcoholic liquor.

### **9.048.030 Minors; Misrepresenting Age.**

No minor shall, within the city, obtain or attempt to obtain any alcoholic liquor by misrepresenting of age, or by any other method, in any premises where alcoholic liquor is sold. No minor shall, within the city, by misrepresentation of age, enter or attempt to enter any premises where alcoholic liquor is sold.

### **State Statute 28-638. Criminal Impersonation.**

A person commits the crime of criminal impersonation if he or she: Pretends to be a representative of some person or organization and does an act in his or her fictitious capacity with the intent to gain a pecuniary benefit for himself and to deceive or harm another. There is a section about providing false information to law enforcement or court, and a section about obtaining employment. This penalty ranges from a Class II Misd. to a Class IV Felony.

Any questions contact me (Ofc. Matt Stegman #1329) at 441-6514