

Fake ID's- What You Need to Know

If you possess a fake identification card of any kind, you're breaking the law. Illinois statutes clearly define what constitutes a fake ID as well as the punishments for people caught using them. Here are some of the details:

- Obtaining, using, possessing, or distributing fake ID's- be it a fake state ID or driver's license- is illegal. Among other penalties, the State of Illinois can suspend or revoke driving privileges of anyone caught in violation of laws pertaining to fake ID's.
- You are breaking the law if you are using someone else's identification as your own.
- You could be convicted of a Class A misdemeanor (up to 1 year in jail and up to \$2500 in fines) for the following:
 - Lending or letting someone else use your state ID or driver's license;
 - Pretending that someone else's state ID or driver's license is your own;
 - Possessing a "fictitious" state ID or driver's license ("fictitious" means a license issued by a state/federal/local office containing untrue information);
 - Providing any document- real or fictitious- for the purpose of obtaining a fictitious state ID or driver's license;
 - Altering or attempting to alter a state ID or driver's license;
 - Subsequent convictions of any these violations could result in a Class 4 felony.
- Class 4 felonies are issued to people who have subsequent or more serious fake ID-related violations. Class 4 felony convictions carry a 1-3 year sentence and fines up to \$25,000. You could be convicted of a Class 4 felony for the following:
 - Possessing a "fraudulent" state ID or driver's license ("fraudulent" means an ID produced by someone other than a government office);
 - Possessing equipment to reproduce a governmental ID or driver's license;
 - Advertising, selling, manufacturing, or distributing a fraudulent driver's license or other state ID;
 - Subsequent convictions of any of these violations may result in a Class 3 felony, which means sentences of up to 5 years and fines up to \$25,000.

United States federal law also punishes individuals who use other's identification or who falsify or intend to produce or obtain fake governmental ID's. Federal penalties for such crimes can include lengthier jail sentences and more expensive fines than found at the state level. **When DePaul University becomes aware of a student who has been charged for fake ID violations, he/she may undergo an additional judicial process on campus.**

For more information, see:

<http://www.dontbesorry.org>

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=062500050K6-301.1> (IL statutes on fake ID's)