



Police training in New England, where the impostor problem is rampant, is teaching detectives, booking officers, and jail house sergeants that a driver's license, even a valid one, does not necessarily mean the document represents an identity. Nearly 1,000 law enforcement officials at police departments and houses of correction throughout the region have attended the training. Using data points like Social Security numbers and dates of birth, officers are taught to cross-reference federal databases, such as those from the FBI or Immigration and Customs Enforcement to determine the document holder's true identity.

Saugus police officer James Scott teaches one of the classes. He says that prior to his class, a lot of his students were simply "looking at a driver's license and accepting it at face value." After completing his course, he says they begin looking at the identity that's behind the license and looking for how many people may be using it.

A New Hampshire State Police Detective on the state's DMV task force says that since implementing the training in 2015, DMV clerks have been instrumental in spotting fraudulent documents before issuing licenses. Seargent Dave McCormack says, "It worked great for us. We went about it aggressively and over the last year and a half we've made 75 arrests, people that have come in with fraudulent documents."

One Massachusetts state representative wants to see more of this type of training throughout the state and at Registry of Motor Vehicles offices. Rep. Shaunna O'Connell says that "crime starts at the RMV. These people are walking into the RMV and committing the felony of identity theft and they're walking out of the RMV with a Massachusetts driver's license."

We couldn't agree with Rep. O'Connell more. We know how dangerous high quality, counterfeit driver's licenses can be, but they are nothing compared to an identity thief armed with a fraudulent but validly-issued state driver's license.

[Click here for the story](#)

## **Cross country chase for Maryland man charged with complicated fraud scheme to steal \$470,000 check**

Federal and state authorities are working together to find an identity thief who stole \$470k by using fake identities. Darrell Williams, a 57-year old Maryland man, is wanted in the cross-country check scheme involving stolen identities, fraudulent driver's licenses, and fraudulently opened bank accounts. Williams was indicted in December on charges that he intercepted a \$469,364 check and then deposited it into a bank account. The check was meant as a payment for a company by another party, but Williams fraudulently created his own shell company in New Jersey under the same name in order to deposit the check for himself. Through a



*Darrell Williams, wanted for a cross-*

fraudulent bank account and by forging several other shell companies, Williams is accused of then withdrawing that money in small increments in order to avoid detection. State Attorney General Christopher Porrino's office said that Williams used a second false identity and fraudulent driver's license to set up accounts for at least one of the shell companies, too.

[Click here for the story](#)

## **Uber admits hackers stole PII data from millions of customers**

Ride-sharing company Uber has officially come clean about the hacking of 57 million customers' and drivers' personal information, including driver's license numbers. Uber alerted the potential victims of identity theft that the company's data was hacked and its users' information was compromised. The heist resulted in the hijacking of names, email addresses, and mobile phone numbers of 57 million riders around the world and the driver's license numbers of 600,000 Uber drivers in the U.S. Those whose driver's license numbers and biographical data were hacked are at a great risk of Synthetic Identity Theft. For synthetic identity theft, a thief uses elements of several victims to create a fake person, then obtains a driver's license from a state offering a "lower tier" driver's license where proofs of identity are not authenticated. Career criminals often carry several sets of such IDs, to avoid being arrested when stopped for traffic infractions.

[Click here for the story](#)

## **Same Kansas City address used by over 100 Missouri driver's license applicants**

More than 100 people applied for driver's licenses from the State of Missouri, using the same address in Kansas City. The home belongs to Nohemi Lara, one of 17 people charged with forgery in the identity fraud scam. Investigators said she was paid to interpret for illegal immigrants at the Missouri license bureau, knowing they were using stolen birth certificates and Social Security numbers to get state IDs.

The fraud was first discovered by investigators from the Missouri Department of Revenue who kept seeing the house on Askew in Kansas City in license applications. When the investigators went to look at the house, they aptly determined that it was too small to house the hundred-plus people that listed it as their home.

An agent from Homeland Security, Mark Fox, who led the investigation between multiple agencies, said that the fraudsters use the stolen identities to get by the e-verify system. However, when they earn money and it is reported to the IRS, it becomes a nightmare for the identity theft victim who suddenly may have life-long issues.

"You can have problems with state taxes, you can have problems with benefits, you can have problems with income taxes on the federal level and it just turns people's lives into a nightmare," said Fox. "Getting it fixed becomes more difficult the more tendrils are out in your life."

[Click here for the story](#)

---

# terrorism Update.

## Suicide bombing attack in Times Square could have been much worse

In early December, a would-be suicide bomber blended in with the rushing masses in the nation's busiest subway system with a pipe bomb strapped to his body. Akayed Ullah, radicalized by online ISIS propoganda, detonated that bomb during a peak travel hour. Fortunately, he was the only one seriously injured. However, it could have been much worse. Instead of a suicide mission with a small bomb, the once-licensed taxi cab driver might have instead rented a truck and run down pedestrians on the streets, channeling the successful New York City Halloween attack of Sayfullo Saipov. Ullah was licensed to drive a livery cab between 2012 and 2015, but the license was allowed to lapse. Ullah has been indicted for terrorism on multiple federal charges.

[Click here for the story](#)



## At least 200 commercial driver's licenses doled out by New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission staff for bribes

A driver's license clerk and a private security guard at the Lodi, New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission branch, along with seven others, are accused of conspiring in a scheme to provide commercial driver's licenses in exchange for bribes for more than 200 applicants who couldn't pass truck driving exams. Caught by an auditor, the licenses have been canceled and the central culprits face prison time.

The nine co-defendants involved in the scheme are charged with second-degree conspiracy and computer criminal activity and third-degree records tampering. The charges are the result of an expanded investigation of another corrupt former MVC clerk, Rodman Lora, 39, of Ridgewood, NY, according to the office of state Attorney General Christopher S. Porrino. Lora is accused of tampering with the MVC records of over 220 people between 2014 and 2016 and taking payments averaging more than \$700 for issuing each fraudulent document.

Lora allegedly entered a passing grade for an exam that MVC security guard Mark Hingston never took, granting him a commercial driver's permit and license. He is accused of doing the same for MVC clerk Rose Vargas, who faces charges of obtaining a motorcycle license without taking the written test. According to authorities, the scheme also included runners used to recruit applicants. Many of these applicants came from job seekers from Masood Ahmadi's school bus company. Ahmadi also faces charges.

Convictions for second-degree crimes could carry sentences of up to 10 years and fines up to \$150,000. Third-degree charges are punishable by up to five years in prison and \$15,000 fines.

[Click here for the story](#)



*Mark Hingston, 55, was a private security guard at a New Jersey MVC Agency when he allegedly obtained a commercial driver's permit and license without passing the required written exam. NJ.gov*

---

## **COUNTERFEIT IDs:** **A NATIONAL SECURITY, PUBLIC SAFETY THREAT**

---

### **Convicted drug dealer wanted for murder gives police multiple fake IDs**

California cops weren't fooled by the suspected murderer, a convicted drug dealer from Utah, when he claimed a false identity. Shaun Fleming possessed false IDs, but police quickly sorted out his real identity and arrested him. He's now being held without bail.

We are seeing more and more drug dealers arrested with either fraudulently obtained driver's licenses or counterfeit IDs. However, the use of fake IDs by drug dealers is not a new trend and the uptick does not

necessarily indicate an increase in the activity, but rather points to an increase in smart policing. Authorities are becoming more aware of the links between fraudulent identity documents and drug dealers and more proficient at spotting false identification documents being presented by criminals.

[Click here for the story](#)



*Police determined this suspected murderer's true identity to be Shaun Fleming of Utah after he presented officers with multiple fake IDs. Palm Springs PD*

## Major identity thieves uncovered after license plate violation

ID thieves pulled over in Bismarck, ND for a license plate violation ended up with felony charges for possessing stolen identity documents. Found inside their car were 46 credit and debit cards, five checkbooks, four banking account number cards, eight Social Security cards and about 30 different driver's licenses. The stolen IDs belong to 30 different people from Alabama to Alaska, D.C. to Idaho, and Missouri to Minnesota. Christina Lee Meyers, Brandon Allen Christian, and Gerald Jermaine Adderley were arrested Friday and each charged with 30 felony counts of theft of property. Wherever they were going, it might have been smart to avoid North Dakota, where police are always proactive and well-informed on combating document fraud.



*Christina Lee Meyers and Brandon Allen Christian, both of Wisconsin, and 40-year-old Gerald Jermaine Adderley were arrested and each charged with 30 felony counts of theft of property and one misdemeanor count each of unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia and unlawful possession of a controlled substance. Bismark Tribune*

[Click here for the story](#)

## **California couple face felony charges for massive collection of fraud toolbox**

Charges against Alan Torres Ruiz and Brea Lyn Ordon of Palm Springs, California are being levied after the two were found by authorities surrounded by photo IDs, access cards, marriage certificates, checkbooks, computers, printers, scanners, luggage, a safe with multiple passports inside and a few garage door openers, according to county court documents. And the kicker? Police say they found a suspicious app on Ruiz's phone - "Fake ID Generator." This app is sold on google store and has been downloaded more than a million times -- how good is that for public safety? We can only hope that if they're found guilty, the judicial system will take these serious crooks out of circulation for at least a few years.

[Click here for the story](#)



## **North Carolina newspaper prepares FAQ for REAL ID roll out**

As the North Carolina DMV rolls out its REAL ID compliant licenses, the Raleigh News and Observer newspaper published a useful "frequently asked questions" to help residents understand the new law. Important points made include:

Q. Do I need to get a REAL ID?

A. No, neither the state nor federal government requires that you have a REAL ID.

Q. Then why would I get a REAL ID?

A. The federal government will begin requiring stricter identification standards to board a commercial flight or to enter a federal facility, including courthouses and military bases, as well as nuclear plants. The REAL ID will be sufficient to board a plane or enter facilities where the public is required to show ID. To fly, those without a REAL ID will be required to show another form of identification, such as a passport, Department of Defense ID or one of dozen other IDs listed on the U.S. Transportation Security Administration's

website, [www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification](http://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification). Military bases require two forms of identification if you don't have a REAL ID.

Q. If we have until 2020, why is the N.C. DMV so keen for people to get them now?

A. DMV officials estimate that as many as 4 million North Carolina drivers may want to get a REAL ID by Oct. 1, 2020. If everyone waits until the months just before then, DMV offices will be overwhelmed.

We find that these types of public information campaigns significantly help residents cope with any changes to their processes at the DMV and proactively mitigate against long lines at the DMV before the REAL ID deadline.

[Click here for the article](#)

## **South Carolina opening up pre-registering for REAL ID licenses**

South Carolina DMV is preparing to issue REAL ID driver's licenses and making necessary changes to comply with federal rules and updating systems to maintain customer service standards. An innovator among late compliance states, South Carolina DMV is allowing applicants for REAL ID upgrades to pre-register for later issuance when the new procedures go into effect. This is another example of how states and state DMVs can proactively prepare for REAL ID roll outs to avoid confusion and long lines for its residents and agencies.

[Click here for the story](#)

---

## **It's now been 16 years since 9/11 - and the driver's license loophole STILL hasn't been fixed!**

Did you know that fake IDs are used for so much more than underage drinking? The 9/11 Commission said that identity documents were as important as weapons for the hijackers. Check out our video to learn how criminals, thieves, and even terrorists use fake IDs to commit their crimes.



---

## Support Keeping IDentities Safe

---



See how we help keep IDs out of the hands of criminals and terrorists!



Check out our Keeping IDentities Safe for KIDS program, providing IDs for children!

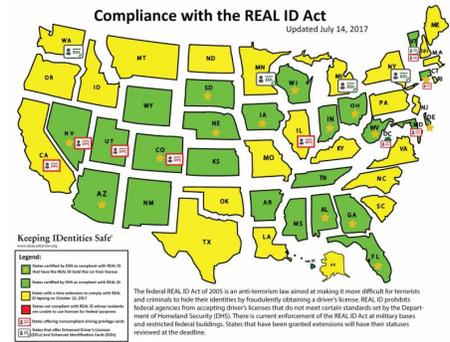
---

## How are we fighting driver's license fraud?

---

By raising awareness  
 By working with law enforcement  
 By helping states comply with REAL ID  
 By working with state legislators all over the country  
 By providing research  
 By working every day to protect your identity documents!  
*We can only continue to do this with your support*

[Click here for more!](#)



**Keeping Identities Safe**  
[info@idsecuritynow.org](mailto:info@idsecuritynow.org) | <http://idsecuritynow.org>



**SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAILS**



**SHARE THIS EMAIL**

Follow us on [twitter](#)

Like us on Facebook