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## Counterfeit IDs

## Keeping IDentities Safe in the News

## REAL ID Compliance Update

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

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#### **"Fake ID gang" that supported ISIS attacks in Europe sentenced**

Fourteen members of a "fake ID gang" were sentenced by Belgian courts in January for their roles in manufacturing around 2,000 high quality identity documents. Known customers for these documents include several of the ISIS terrorists that planned and executed the recent Paris and Brussels attacks that claimed nearly 200 lives. They used the factory's IDs to rent a safe house, cross borders, and move money between the undercover cells under false identities. Thirteen of the document manufacturing suspects received jail sentences from

between one and eight years, but were not charged with terrorism - deemed unwitting to their customers' intent. Whether they knew who they were selling to or not, this European document mill highlights the problem that overseas fake ID manufacturers present by selling bogus documents to anyone with enough cash. And, although the factory's leaders were arrested, we have no idea how many more of these extremely realistic IDs may be in the hands of terrorists world wide.

[Click here for the story](#)

### **Third suspect in Alabama "fake ID factory" arrested**

Now that the third suspect in the operation of a Huntsville, Alabama "forgery and fake ID factory" has been arrested, Madison County prosecutors are building a complete case against the dangerous criminal enterprise that supplied new identities to impostors. Monualdi Tibbs was captured and arrested in Cleveland, Ohio after a nationwide police search. He, his brother, Miles Tibbs, and their accomplice, Sean DeCambra, were squatting in an upscale Huntsville home where they operated an extensive fraud ring, according to the investigation. After searching the property, authorities say they recovered evidence showing that 95 names were used from the operation for financial gain. Police have ruled out any links to terrorism.

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### **Blog names the top 7 fake IDs in the country**

A story posted to Insider Monkey, a user uploaded blog platform, proclaims to reveal the most prominent fake IDs in the United States, which, according to the article, is one of only four countries still enforcing an over 21 drinking age. The seven "easiest and most common fake IDs" listed are Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Illinois, Mississippi, and Ohio. We disagree strongly with some of the author's findings. While Connecticut, Florida, and Illinois may be among the most common fake IDs, Georgia is most certainly not. Georgia driver's licenses and ID cards remain one of the most difficult to counterfeit in the country and the few counterfeit vendors that do offer Georgia IDs are not making passable documents. That is to say, just about any fake Georgia ID will be immediately spotted by any document checker worth their salt. Conversely, Pennsylvania would have to be at the top of any such list for it to be even remotely credible, as the Keystone State has had the most commonly counterfeited ID over the last five years.

[Click here for the story](#)

## **Sex offender issued two fraudulent Florida IDs**

James Santiago, convicted of raping a child less than 12 years old in 1989, was arrested again in January on charges of exposing himself to women and girls in a hotel in Orlando, Florida. This time, however, he was using someone else's identity - aided by a pair of fraudulent Florida IDs. Santiago twice went into the same Florida tax collector's office and twice walked out with a new genuine document. Donning a "fake beard," he used a bogus Social Security card and Puerto Rican birth certificate purchased from a document broker to apply for both a Florida driver's license and a Florida ID card on separate occasions. He was issued each document.

Santiago told police that he can't remember who sold him the source documents he used to obtain the genuine Florida IDs. He also told police that he only assumed the fraudulent identity to hide his "long criminal history" in order to get a job. Florida Highway Patrol Sgt. Kim Montes said that while this type of fraud is troubling, the bigger picture is even scarier. "The worst scenario that can occur," Montes said, "is obviously terrorism." Sgt. Montes is correct, as a fraudulently obtained but valid driver's license is one of the most useful and dangerous tools of a terrorist and can be used for a whole host of purposes.

[Click here for the story](#)

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# Keeping IDentities Safe<sup>®</sup>

In the **NEWS**

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## **Keeping IDentities Safe President argues for REAL ID compliance in Montana**

Brian Zimmer, President of Keeping IDentities Safe, was on Montana radio station KMMNS AM 1450 with Tom Egelhoff to talk about the REAL ID Act in a state that's historically been heavily resistant to the federal driver's license security standards. Zimmer told Montanans what needs to happen at the state level in order for their driver's licenses to meet the REAL ID rules and be used for federal purposes. Montana is currently in violation of the REAL ID Act for a

number of reasons, he said, including the lack of background checks on DMV employees who are issuing documents. This measure helps mitigate the threat of insider fraud and the issuance of valid state identity documents to impostors. Montana also does not require proof of citizenship for the issuance of a state driver's license or ID card nor does it keep a record of applicant photos taken to prevent fraudsters from obtaining multiple licenses, all REAL ID requirements.

[Click here to listen](#)



### **Pennsylvania one step closer to repealing REAL ID prohibition**

This week, the Communications and Technology Committee in the Pennsylvania State Senate passed a bill to repeal a law that prohibits the state from complying with the REAL ID Act. That law originated in the very same committee in 2012. Pennsylvania was recently granted an extension to comply with the REAL ID Act and was able to narrowly avoid enforcement. However, this repeal bill still needs to pass the Senate and House and the DMV needs to implement the remaining REAL ID standards in order to avoid June 6 enforcement.

[Click here for the story](#)

### **REAL ID compliance a top priority for Oklahoma Speaker**

Oklahoma House Speaker Charles McCall has said that passing a teacher pay raise and implementing the rules of the REAL ID Act of 2005 are the top priorities of the state's upcoming legislative session, beginning February 6. Speaker McCall said he hopes to pass a REAL ID compliance bill out of committee by the first week of session and have it on the House floor by the second week. "I fully expect that legislation will make it through the entire process," the Speaker said.

[Click here for the story](#)

## South Carolina gets an extension

South Carolinians will now be able to use their driver's licenses for federal purposes after the REAL ID Act deadline thanks to the DMV applying for and receiving an extension by the Department of Homeland Security. South Carolina Senate Transportation Committee Chairman negotiated the extension between DHS and the SC DMV, prolonging the usefulness of the state's documents at federal facilities until June 6.

[Click here for the story](#)



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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!

## Keeping Identities Safe in the News:



### MAX BLUESTEIN IN THE DAILY CALLER

Fake IDs and the Truck Attack Threat



### ANDREW MEEHAN IN THE MORNING CALL

REAL ID warning signs in PA

## 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*



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