



(<https://www.cornell.edu>) Cornell University Law School (<http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/>) Search Cornell (<https://www.cornell.edu/search/>)

U.S. Code (</uscode/text>) › Title 18 (</uscode/text/18>) › Part I (</uscode/text/18/part-I>) › Chapter 47 (</uscode/text/18/part-I/chapter-47>) › § 1028

Current through Pub. L. 114-38 (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-114publ38/html/PLAW-114publ38.htm>).  
(See Public Laws for the current Congress (<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/LegislativeData.php?n=PublicLaws>).)

**US Code** ([/uscode/text/18/1028?qt-us\\_code\\_temp\\_noupdates=0#qt-us\\_code\\_temp\\_noupdates](/uscode/text/18/1028?qt-us_code_temp_noupdates=0#qt-us_code_temp_noupdates))

**Notes** ([/uscode/text/18/1028?qt-us\\_code\\_temp\\_noupdates=1#qt-us\\_code\\_temp\\_noupdates](/uscode/text/18/1028?qt-us_code_temp_noupdates=1#qt-us_code_temp_noupdates))

[prev](#) | [next](#)

**(a)** Whoever, in a circumstance described in subsection (c) of this section—

**(1)** knowingly and without lawful authority produces an identification document, authentication feature, or a false identification document;

**(2)** knowingly transfers an identification document, authentication feature, or a false identification document knowing that such document or feature was stolen or produced without lawful authority;

**(3)** knowingly possesses with intent to use unlawfully or transfer unlawfully five or more identification documents (other than those issued lawfully for the use of the possessor), authentication features, or false identification documents;

**(4)** knowingly possesses an identification document (other than one issued lawfully for the use of the possessor), authentication feature, or a false identification document, with the intent such document or feature be used to defraud the United States;

**(5)** knowingly produces, transfers, or possesses a document-making implement or authentication feature with the intent such document-making implement or authentication feature will be used in the production of a false identification document or another document-making implement or authentication feature which will be so used;

**(6)** knowingly possesses an identification document or authentication feature that is or appears to be an identification document or authentication feature of the United States or a sponsoring entity of an event designated as a special event of national significance which is stolen or produced without lawful authority knowing that such document or feature was stolen or produced without such authority;

**(7)** knowingly transfers, possesses, or uses, without lawful authority, a means of identification of another person with the intent to commit, or to aid or abet, or in connection with, any unlawful activity that constitutes a violation of Federal law, or that constitutes a felony under any applicable State or local law; or

**(8)** knowingly traffics in false or actual authentication features for use in false identification documents, document-making implements, or means of identification;

shall be punished as provided in subsection (b) of this section.

**(b)** The punishment for an offense under subsection (a) of this section is—

**(1)** except as provided in paragraphs (3) and (4), a fine under this title or imprisonment for not more than 15 years, or both, if the offense is—

**(A)** the production or transfer of an identification document, authentication feature, or false identification document that is or appears to be—

**(i)** an identification document or authentication feature issued by or under the authority of the United States; or

**(ii)** a birth certificate, or a driver's license or personal identification card;

**(B)** the production or transfer of more than five identification documents, authentication features, or false identification documents;

(C) an offense under paragraph (5) of such subsection; or

(D) an offense under paragraph (7) of such subsection that involves the transfer, possession, or use of 1 or more means of identification if, as a result of the offense, any individual committing the offense obtains anything of value aggregating \$1,000 or more during any 1-year period;

(2) except as provided in paragraphs (3) and (4), a fine under this title or imprisonment for not more than 5 years, or both, if the offense is—

(A) any other production, transfer, or use of a means of identification, an identification document, <sup>[1]</sup> authentication feature, or a false identification document; or

(B) an offense under paragraph (3) or (7) of such subsection;

(3) a fine under this title or imprisonment for not more than 20 years, or both, if the offense is committed—

(A) to facilitate a drug trafficking crime (as defined in section 929 (/uscode/text/18/929) (a)(2) (/uscode/text/18/usc\_sec\_18\_00000929—000-#a\_2));

(B) in connection with a crime of violence (as defined in section 924 (/uscode/text/18/924) (c)(3) (/uscode/text/18/usc\_sec\_18\_00000924—000-#c\_3)); or

(C) after a prior conviction under this section becomes final;

(4) a fine under this title or imprisonment for not more than 30 years, or both, if the offense is committed to facilitate an act of domestic terrorism (as defined under section 2331 (/uscode/text/18/2331) (5) (/uscode/text/18/usc\_sec\_18\_00002331—000-#5) of this title) or an act of international terrorism (as defined in section 2331 (/uscode/text/18/2331) (1) (/uscode/text/18/usc\_sec\_18\_00002331—000-#1) of this title);

(5) in the case of any offense under subsection (a), forfeiture to the United States of any personal property used or intended to be used to commit the offense; and

(6) a fine under this title or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both, in any other case.

(c) The circumstance referred to in subsection (a) of this section is that—

(1) the identification document, authentication feature, or false identification document is or appears to be issued by or under the authority of the United States or a sponsoring entity of an event designated as a special event of national significance or the document-making implement is designed or suited for making such an identification document, authentication feature, or false identification document;

(2) the offense is an offense under subsection (a)(4) of this section; or

(3) either—

(A) the production, transfer, possession, or use prohibited by this section is in or affects interstate or foreign commerce, including the transfer of a document by electronic means; or

(B) the means of identification, identification document, false identification document, or document-making implement is transported in the mail in the course of the production, transfer, possession, or use prohibited by this section.

(d) In this section and section 1028A (/uscode/text/18/1028A)—

(1) the term “authentication feature” means any hologram, watermark, certification, symbol, code, image, sequence of numbers or letters, or other feature that either individually or in combination with another feature is used by the issuing authority on an identification document, document-making implement, or means of identification to determine if the document is counterfeit, altered, or otherwise falsified;

(2) the term “document-making implement” means any implement, impression, template, computer file, computer disc, electronic device, or computer hardware or software, that is specifically configured or primarily used for making an identification document, a false identification document, or another document-making implement;

(3) the term “identification document” means a document made or issued by or under the authority of the United States Government, a State, political subdivision of a State, a sponsoring entity of an event designated as a special event of national significance, a foreign government, political subdivision of a foreign government, an international governmental or an international quasi-governmental organization which, when

completed with information concerning a particular individual, is of a type intended or commonly accepted for the purpose of identification of individuals;

**(4)** the term “false identification document” means a document of a type intended or commonly accepted for the purposes of identification of individuals that—

**(A)** is not issued by or under the authority of a governmental entity or was issued under the authority of a governmental entity but was subsequently altered for purposes of deceit; and

**(B)** appears to be issued by or under the authority of the United States Government, a State, a political subdivision of a State, a sponsoring entity of an event designated by the President as a special event of national significance, a foreign government, a political subdivision of a foreign government, or an international governmental or quasi-governmental organization;

**(5)** the term “false authentication feature” means an authentication feature that—

**(A)** is genuine in origin, but, without the authorization of the issuing authority, has been tampered with or altered for purposes of deceit;

**(B)** is genuine, but has been distributed, or is intended for distribution, without the authorization of the issuing authority and not in connection with a lawfully made identification document, document-making implement, or means of identification to which such authentication feature is intended to be affixed or embedded by the respective issuing authority; or

**(C)** appears to be genuine, but is not;

**(6)** the term “issuing authority”—

**(A)** means any governmental entity or agency that is authorized to issue identification documents, means of identification, or authentication features; and

**(B)** includes the United States Government, a State, a political subdivision of a State, a sponsoring entity of an event designated by the President as a special event of national significance, a foreign government, a political subdivision of a foreign government, or an international government or quasi-governmental organization;

**(7)** the term “means of identification” means any name or number that may be used, alone or in conjunction with any other information, to identify a specific individual, including any—

**(A)** name, social security number, date of birth, official State or government issued driver’s license or identification number, alien registration number, government passport number, employer or taxpayer identification number;

**(B)** unique biometric data, such as fingerprint, voice print, retina or iris image, or other unique physical representation;

**(C)** unique electronic identification number, address, or routing code; or

**(D)** telecommunication identifying information or access device (as defined in section 1029 (/uscode/text/18/1029) (e) (/uscode/text/18/usc\_sec\_18\_00001029---000-#e));

**(8)** the term “personal identification card” means an identification document issued by a State or local government solely for the purpose of identification;

**(9)** the term “produce” includes alter, authenticate, or assemble;

**(10)** the term “transfer” includes selecting an identification document, false identification document, or document-making implement and placing or directing the placement of such identification document, false identification document, or document-making implement on an online location where it is available to others;

**(11)** the term “State” includes any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any other commonwealth, possession, or territory of the United States; and

**(12)** the term “traffic” means—

**(A)** to transport, transfer, or otherwise dispose of, to another, as consideration for anything of value; or

**(B)** to make or obtain control of with intent to so transport, transfer, or otherwise dispose of.

(e) This section does not prohibit any lawfully authorized investigative, protective, or intelligence activity of a law enforcement agency of the United States, a State, or a political subdivision of a State, or of an intelligence agency of the United States, or any activity authorized under chapter 224 ([/uscode/text/18/part-II/chapter-224](#)) of this title.

(f) **Attempt and Conspiracy.**— Any person who attempts or conspires to commit any offense under this section shall be subject to the same penalties as those prescribed for the offense, the commission of which was the object of the attempt or conspiracy.

(g) **Forfeiture Procedures.**— The forfeiture of property under this section, including any seizure and disposition of the property and any related judicial or administrative proceeding, shall be governed by the provisions of section 413 (other than subsection (d) of that section) of the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 (21 ([/uscode/text/21](#)) U.S.C. 853 ([/uscode/text/21/853](#))).

(h) **Forfeiture; Disposition.**— In the circumstance in which any person is convicted of a violation of subsection (a), the court shall order, in addition to the penalty prescribed, the forfeiture and destruction or other disposition of all illicit authentication features, identification documents, document-making implements, or means of identification.

(i) **Rule of Construction.**— For purpose of subsection (a)(7), a single identification document or false identification document that contains 1 or more means of identification shall be construed to be 1 means of identification.

---

[1] So in original.

*LII has no control over and does not endorse any external Internet site that contains links to or references LII.*

## U.S. Code Toolbox

Wex: Criminal Law: Overview ([/wex/criminal\\_law](#))

Download the PDF (8 pgs) 

([https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/pdf/uscode18/lii\\_usc\\_TI\\_18\\_PA\\_I\\_CH\\_47\\_SE\\_1028.pdf](https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/pdf/uscode18/lii_usc_TI_18_PA_I_CH_47_SE_1028.pdf))

Title 18 USC, RSS Feed  ([https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/rss/usc\\_update\\_18.rss](https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/rss/usc_update_18.rss))

Table of Popular Names ([/topn](#))

Parallel Table of Authorities ([/ptoa](#))



## Stay Involved

- LII Announce Blog (<http://blog.law.cornell.edu>)
- LII Supreme Court Bulletin (<http://liibulletin.law.cornell.edu>)
- Make a donation (<http://www.law.cornell.edu/donors/>)
- Contribute content (<http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex>)
- Become a sponsor ([http://www.law.cornell.edu/lii/business\\_opportunities](http://www.law.cornell.edu/lii/business_opportunities))
- Give feedback (<http://www.law.cornell.edu/contact>)

## Find a Lawyer

All lawyers (<http://lawyers.law.cornell.edu/lawyers/locate/>)

[\(/lil/about/about\\_lil\)](#)

Contact us

[\(/lil/about/contact\\_us\)](#)

Advertise here [\(/lil/help\\_out/sponsor\)](#)

Help

[\(/lil/help\)](#)

Terms of use

[\(/lil/terms/documentation\)](#)

Privacy

[\(/lil/terms/privacy\\_policy\)](#)

**[LII]** *(l)*