**Consequences of a stolen/copied IMEI**

***Mobile operators***

If a phone is stolen, all the customer needs to do is contact his or hers service provider and inform them of the IMEI number, unique to the stolen phone. The mobile operator can then easily lock the handset, rendering it completely useless to the thief. Even if the SIM-card is changed, the phone will still be completely useless.

However it is far more important to have your account at your service provider locked. So that no changes can be made to it, through the number attached to the stolen phone. It is easy to assume the identity of the original owner, if you have their phone, as long as the original handset owner remains inactive.

When a phone or identity of a phone is stolen. And services are used, someone will at some point have to pay. Under usual circumstances there are regulations that limit the possibility for fraudulent activity.

***Client***

Cellphone theft is largely not a theft of the actual phone. It is to a certain degree an indentity theft. You steal a phone, you gain access to wide array of services which that phone provided the original owner with. Be it internet acces, text/media messaging or just regular phone-correspondance or any other service provided by that particular handset.