

Get Real About Fake IDs

Craig Miller, has been an DLLC Investigator since March 1997. After 11-1/2 years, Craig's enthusiasm for the job continues to grow and positively impact everyone around him. The fake ID training course he recently developed provides a perfect example.

Fake IDs are a monumental problem across the country. Craig's solution is to educate doormen -- the people checking IDs at the door of licensed liquor establishments. When 200 people showed up for the first day of Craig's training, it was apparent he was on to something big.

Before we go any farther, this is a good place to interject how many Arizona's licensees and their employees are involved in the effort to eliminate fake IDs and underage service. Dave and Busters, a huge Tempe bar (series 6) offered their ballroom and audio/video equipment to Craig and co-trainer, John Miller, a 14-year veteran of Scottsdale PD's Liquor Investigation Unit, for their first day of training on Wednesday, October 1st. Dave and Buster's Assistant General Manager, Josef Eberhardt, got the word out about the upcoming training to all licensed establishment around Tempe Marketplace. Dave and Busters' ballroom filled up fast and Josef was the first to begin pulling out extra chairs to accommodate the overflow.

It's pretty difficult to keep the attention of anyone between the ages of 18 - 30 for an hour and a half -- especially for a 90+ page PowerPoint presentation. Craig and John kept every eye fixed on full-screen examples of what is legal and illegal in the world of identification cards. Using a magic combination of knowledge, experience, and humor, these two investigators held the attention of everyone in the room.

Craig and John broke down fake ID problems and solutions using these simple guidelines.

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ID PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

ID PROBLEMS:

Fake ID
Fictitious ID

Altered ID
Counterfeit ID

Using another person's ID

ID SOLUTIONS:

A. Presentation of Customer

- Always have the customer remove their license from their purse and/or wallet
- Watch for other IDs in their wallet
- See where they were keeping the ID and if they act suspicious

B. Examination of the ID

- Feel it, check for jagged edges, flimsy construction, and separated/raised layers
- Check color of background and spacing, color and capitalization of print
- Use a flashlight, magnifier, AND black light
- Check birthday and expiration date

C. Compare Customer to ID

Compare the picture and information on the license to the person showing you the ID

- height - weight - eye color - hair color

Have customer duplicate their facial expression in the picture and compare:

- space between nose and upper lip - teeth - head shape - shape and placement of eyes and ears

D. Ask Questions to Verify Their Knowledge of Information on the ID

(if they hesitate on any of their answers, it's likely you have a problem)

- What is your astrological sign? (verifies birth date - everyone knows their sign, even if they're not into that kind of stuff)
- What your street address and zip code?
- What are your cross streets?

IF YOU HAVE ANY SUSPICIONS

1. Ask for a second form of ID and YOU chose the second form;
2. If you are unsure, send them away!!! You will be the one receiving a citation or getting arrested!!!!
3. Use an ID log always. If it's not documented, you'll be the one receiving a citation or getting arrested!!!!

CRAIG'S RULE
DON'T ACCEPT ANYTHING
LESS THAN A
SURE THING!

