



Criminal Aspects of the Sovereign Citizen Movement in the United States



Cover: Sovereign citizens falsely believe affixing more than \$20 in postage stamps, regardless of the amount due, triggers the Seventh Amendment protection that a common law jury will resolve any dispute exceeding \$20 in damages. Upside down placement of the US flag stamp is intentional.

What is a sovereign citizen?

The sovereign citizen movement in the United States is comprised of US citizens who openly reject their citizenship status and claim to exist beyond the realm of government authority. Affiliates may use this self-appointed status to justify threats, violence, or crime, including theft and fraud. Moreover, anyone can subscribe to the ideology as it transcends racial, political, religious, and gender demographics.

Followers of the sovereign citizen movement may:

- Self-identify as state citizens, “freemen on the land,” “flesh and blood” men or women, foreign nationals or diplomats, indigenous peoples, or simply as sovereign;
- Present official-looking identification which may wrongly imply authority or government recognition of sovereign status;
- Organize “common law” courts which issue judgments against public officials;
- Reject state-issued identification, including driver licenses and license plates;
- Fail to pay legitimate debts including taxes, mortgages, or other loans;
- Aggressively question the authority of individuals who enforce laws at all levels, including police or employees of the court;
- Reject US currency in lieu of gold, silver, or realistic-looking but fraudulent financial instruments.



Fraudulent identification card showing Apostille and the seals of Montana and the US Department of State.

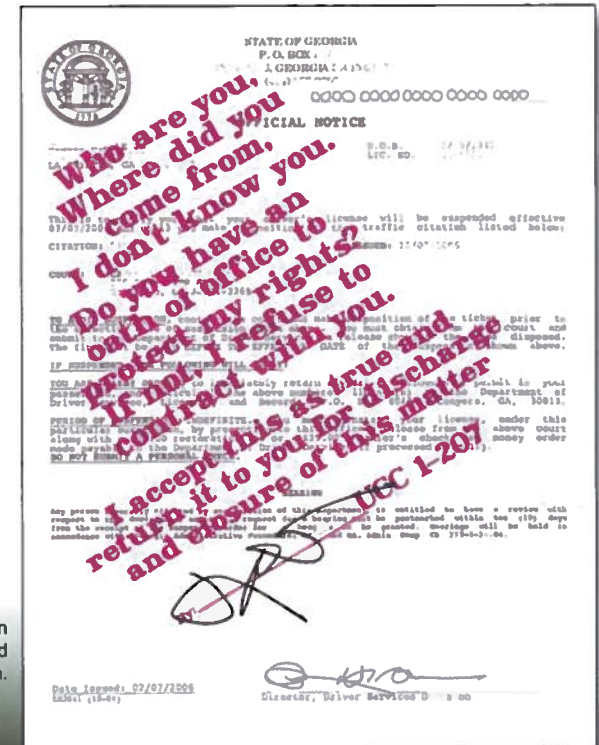
Sovereigns justify these actions by selectively interpreting history and the US Constitution, in combination with various conspiracy theories.

Claims include:

- The US is under martial law, or controlled by secret societies or foreign financiers;
- Federal and state governments have no authority because they are corporations;
- Some US Constitutional amendments are invalid;
- Decisions made by financial institutions are often illegitimate and unenforceable;
- Individuals born in the United States can use their birth certificates to access secret US Treasury bank accounts;
- Sovereignty is sanctioned by the US Constitution.

Force and Violence

Sovereign citizen ideology is generally non-violent; nevertheless sovereign citizen *extremists* use force or violence to advance this ideology in violation of federal law. In the past, sovereign extremists have procured illegal weapons and explosives or engaged in shootings and armed standoffs with law enforcement, due to strong ideological beliefs. Although violent incidents occurred during traffic stops or service of a legal process, a potential for violence also exists during interactions with public officials.



Official license suspension which has been rejected and returned by a sovereign citizen.

Intimidation and Obstruction

When challenged by officials, sovereign citizens may attempt to distract or stop perceived adversaries.

Methods include:

- Claiming officials have no authority or are out of jurisdiction;
- Demanding officials produce an oath of office or bond prior to engaging in a contractual relationship;
- Filming interactions (which may be later posted to the Internet);

Warrant for Arrest Failure to Appear



YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to arrest Judge Jane Doe
789 Main Street, Anytown, MN 12345



Pursuant to the attached subpoena

Under Minnesota Statute 359.11 Taking Depositions

(In taking depositions, the notary shall have the power to compel the attendance of and to punish witnesses for refusing to testify as provided by statute or court rule.
All sheriff's shall serve and return all process issued by any notary in taking depositions
History: (69-19) RL s 2664; 1983 c 359 s 47; 2005 c 10 art 2 s 4)

Please notify the Notary at the above address when warrant is executed to arrange for a deposition.

  Notary No1

  Notary No2

Fraudulent arrest warrant issued against a sitting judge.

- File frivolous lawsuits or liens;
- Engaging the services of an illegitimate-"common law" court.

Although powerless, "common law" courts issue subpoenas, indictments, warrants, and assess fines for bogus damages such as "copyright infringement" ("unauthorized" use of a sovereign name) or "kidnapping" (arrest).

Some sovereign citizens collect personal information on perceived adversaries to prepare frivolous lawsuits and liens or for use by illegitimate "common law" courts. Individuals who have had negative encounters with sovereigns should examine their credit histories periodically to identify the presence of fraudulent liens.

Indicators of Sovereign Citizen Activity

Language:

- Conveyance, machinery, road machine, personal use recreational vehicle (*instead of* car, vehicle, motor vehicle);
- Guests, friends, family (*instead of* passengers);
- Traveling, journeying, moving (*instead of* driving, operating, transporting);
- Public right of way (*instead of* road or street)
- Abode, living, housekeeping, domicile (*instead of* residence);
- Inhabitant, Non-Resident, Non-Domestic (*instead of* resident);
- Non-Commercial (*instead of* public).

False documents and misused government forms:

- Notary Certificate of Service;
- Promissory Note, Indemnity Bond, International Bill of Exchange;
- UCC Financing Statement;
- Power of Attorney, Copyright notice;
- Notice of Security Agreement;
- IRS Forms 1099-OID, 56, 1040, W-8BEN, GSA OF90, OF91;
- Declaration of Status or Nationality;
- Maritime Lien;
- Fraudulent identification, license plates or diplomat credentials.

Notations found on documents:

- [name-middle name:surname]; ©; TM;
- Signature in red ink followed by "under duress," "without prejudice," "without recourse," "authorized representative," "ARR" (All Rights Reserved), or UCC 1-207, UCC 1-203, or UCC 1-308";
- Zip code in brackets;
- United States written as "united States" or UNITED STATES;
- Reference to a "Natural Person," a "Flesh and Blood" man or woman, or "Secured Party";
- Reference to an "Artificial Person" or a "Strawman";
- Documents stamped with the phrase "Accepted for Value".

Each indicator by itself may be lawful conduct or behavior and may also constitute the exercise of rights guaranteed by the US Constitution. In addition, there may be a wholly innocent explanation for conduct or behavior that appears suspicious in nature. For this reason, no single indicator should be the sole basis for law enforcement action. The totality of behavioral indicators and other relevant circumstances should be evaluated when considering any law enforcement response or action.

The federal government has successfully charged sovereign citizen criminals and extremists under the following statutes:

Statute	Description	Maximum Penalty
18 U.S.C. § 485	Counterfeit coins or bars	15 years + fine
18 U.S.C. § 486	Uttering gold or silver coins	5 years + fine
18 U.S.C. § 513	Counterfeit securities	10 years + fine
18 U.S.C. § 514	Fictitious financial obligations	25 years
18 U.S.C. § 713	Use of likeness of the great seal of the US	6 months + fine
18 U.S.C. § 876	Mailing threatening communications	20 years + fine
18 U.S.C. § 1017	Use of a government seal	5 years + fine
18 U.S.C. § 1341	Mail fraud	20-30 years + \$1,000,000
18 U.S.C. § 1343	Wire fraud	20-30 years + \$1,000,000
18 U.S.C. § 1344	Bank fraud	30 years + \$1,000,000
18 U.S.C. § 1521	Retaliation against a Federal judge or Federal law enforcement officer	10 years + fine
26 U.S.C. § 5861	National Firearms Act violations	10 years + \$10,000
26 U.S.C. § 7201	Attempt to evade or defeat tax	5 years + \$100,000
26 U.S.C. § 7202	Willful failure to collect or pay tax	5 years + \$10,000
26 U.S.C. § 7206	Filing false tax returns	3 years + \$100,000



Sovereigns use certain stamps to falsely create contractual relationships or attempt to compel the US government to pay debts.



Personal seal emblazoned to mimic ancient symbology.

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Report information regarding sovereign citizen criminal activity to local police or the FBI at www.fbi.gov/contact-us.