



Information for Victims of False Identification Relating to Criminal Charges

NOTE: Employees of the Seattle City Attorney's Office cannot discuss your case, nor can they investigate the case on your behalf

If another person used your name and, as a result, you face **criminal charges** in Seattle Municipal Court, please take the following action:

1. If you have been assigned a court date you must appear, unless the Court tells you that the error has been corrected. If you fail to appear, a warrant may be issued. The Seattle City Attorney's Office cannot appear on your behalf; it is your obligation to appear and help correct the matter. If you want to be represented by an attorney and cannot afford one, you should immediately contact the Seattle Municipal Court, Indigent Defense Services, at (206) 386-1543 or by visiting the Seattle Municipal Court (2nd floor - Court Resource Center, room 235) located at 600 Fifth Avenue Seattle, WA 98104.
2. When you go to court, or before if possible, take the attached form and give it to the public defender or prosecutor. Ask your attorney to show you a complete list of criminal and traffic histories associated with you to determine if there are other fraudulent charges. It is up to you, or your attorney, to present adequate documentation to support your claim. The Seattle City Attorney's Office cannot assemble your documentation for you or investigate your claim beyond reviewing the documents you provide. It is recommended that you:
 - a. Bring to court a piece of signed photo identification such as a valid driver's license or state issued identification card.
 - b. If the person who used your name was booked into jail, often there will be a booking photo. Ask your attorney to request a copy in advance of the hearing.
3. If you do not have a court date, or it is more than 30 days in the future, mail or email the attached form to:

Seattle City Attorney's Office
701 5th Ave, Suite 2050
Seattle, WA 98104
Law_front_Desk@seattle.gov

If your information is sufficient, we will ask the Court to dismiss the case and notify you. However, if you do not hear from us, or you later receive a

notice for a court date, you must attend and explain the situation in person. If you do not, a warrant may be issued. Do not assume that the case against you has been dismissed.

4. If a warrant has already been issued, call the Seattle Municipal Court at 206-684-5600 and ask to get placed on the Bench Warrant Add-On Calendar. In some cases, if the bail is less than \$10,000, the court will either:
 - a. Release you on your promise to appear and give you a new court date;
or
 - b. Give you a court date for a special hearing where a judge will decide whether to quash your warrant.

Regardless, you must appear at the next court date given to you or the warrant will remain in effect or be re-issued.

5. Because of court rules and potential conflicts of interest, the Seattle City Attorney's Office cannot discuss the case with you. While we understand this may cause you some inconvenience and frustration, we are bound by court rules designed to protect you from discussing your case. We appreciate your patience. Any questions you have should be referred to your attorney.

If your case is related to an **infraction**, please complete a Declaration Requesting the Court to Vacate Judgment Due to Mistaken Identity. Instructions on how to file this pleading are found at: www.seattle.gov/courts/tickets-and-payments/stolen-identity