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

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

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 symbolism.

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.

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

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”.

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

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.

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.
Interacting with Sovereign Citizens
Sovereign citizens view contact with officials in government and the private sector (particularly finance and real estate) as a negotiable commercial transaction regulated by the common law and the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC). Sovereign citizens record these transactions through voluminous, legalistic documents (sometimes even prepared on legitimate forms) that are easily identified by their language. Often fraudulent, these documents may reflect attempts to avoid legitimate debt, transfer assets illegally, or fraudulently attach liens to the property of perceived enemies.

Unique markers include:
- Names spelled in capital letters or oddly interspersed with colons or dashes;
- Misplaced references to the Bible, Magna Carta, US Constitution, US Supreme Court decisions, or treaties with foreign governments;
- Signatures followed by phrases such as “under duress,” or “without prejudice,” TDC (Threat, Duress, or Coercion), the copyright symbol ©, or reference to a section of the Uniform Commercial Code;
- Personal seals, stamps, or red thumb prints;
- Bracketed ZIP codes;
- The phrase “Accepted for Value.”

Notaries and Recorders
Although sovereigns fail to recognize most government authority, they seek official certification and registration of documents with local authorities, state or federal agencies, and courts. Validation by a notary public or through an Apostille is considered critical to sovereigns who falsely believe this process legitimizes document content.

Fraudulent Identification Documents
Sovereigns produce and sell documents to use in lieu of government identification. These sometimes professional looking credentials may falsely imply diplomatic status, official authority, and come in a variety of forms such as: “right to road travel” documents, licenses, passports, “warrants,” or badges.