

SOVEREIGN CITIZENS

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What are Sovereign Citizens?

Generally, sovereign citizens believe that the federal, state and local governments are illegitimate and operate illegally.

They do not recognize the authority of any level of government.

Although they physically reside here, they believe that they are separate and "sovereign" and not within the jurisdiction of any level of government. Hence, they are entitled to ignore the laws enacted by such governmental entities.

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In a 2014 study conducted by The National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, law enforcement agencies that took part in the study (including state and municipal agencies) identified "sovereign citizens" as a top terrorist threat to their communities.

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Many refer to Sovereign Citizens as "Paper Terrorists"

But, if one challenges their ideology, their behavior can quickly escalate to violence

Origins of Movement

The sovereign citizen movement can be traced back to groups such as the Posse Comitatus, tax protestors and the militia movement of the 1980's and 1990's.

While these groups have distinct differences in their belief systems, all of these groups are adamantly anti-government and often use tactics to wreak havoc on the court system and harass public officials.

Today...

Some groups are organized while others may be a loose association of members.

Groups associated with the movement include:

- Moorish Nation or Moorish Temple
- Washitaw Nation
- Republic of the United States of America

There appears to be a significant growth of the movement since the late 2000's.

Sovereign Citizens are not limited to one demographic.

Straw Man

Given that the US Dollar is backed by the “full faith and credit” of the US, sovereign citizens believe that the US government has pledged its citizenry as collateral by selling the earning capabilities of such citizens, effectively enslaving all Americans.

The US Government sets up “treasury accounts” for each American – a “straw man” is then created for the corporate shell identity of each American.

Redemption

If a person can separate himself from his “straw man”, then he is entitled to use the money placed in his treasury account and he is no longer within the jurisdiction of the laws of this country.

Redemption is accomplished by filling out affidavits and other legal documents that are routinely filed with various offices and agencies.

Sovereign citizens believe that local judges and other governmental officials are aware of the “conspiracy” and actively work to hinder the citizen’s motions and filings as part of the “conspiracy”.

- As Sovereign Citizens do not recognize the authority of any level government, they often have non-government issued identification, birth certificates, passports, license plates, and other substitutes for official governmental documents.
- These are made available by other Sovereign Citizens online, in seminars, and by other means.

Common Tactics

- Disruption – filings, courtroom behavior
- Fraudulent liens, deeds, lawsuits and criminal charges
- Threats

RESOURCES / REPORTING

- St. Louis Area:
St. Louis Fusion Center
www.sltef.org
314-615-4839
- Kansas City Area:
Kansas City Fusion Center
816-413-3588
- All other areas in Missouri:
Missouri Information Analysis Center (MIAC)
866-362-6422

House Bill 1769

It is a Class D Felony to file:

- Common Law Lien
- UCC Filing
- Deed
- Contract
- Legal Affidavit
- Criminal charging documents
- Several other types of documents

House Bill 1769

With:

- Secretary of State's Office
- Recorder of Deeds of any county or city not within a county
- Any municipal, county, district or state governmental entity, division, agency, or office
- Any credit bureau or financial institution

House Bill 1769

“With the intent to defraud, deceive, harass, alarm, or negatively impact financially, or in such a manner reasonably calculated to deceive, defraud, harass, alarm, or negatively impact financially...”

House Bill 1769

Such offense is a Class C Felony if the victim is:
An employee, appointed official or elected official of a municipality,
county, district, state, or the federal government;
An employee or Judge of any court;
Full-time, part-time or volunteer firefighter;
Law enforcement officer;
Employee of any law enforcement agency or legal prosecution agency;
Officer of the railroad police;
Others
Includes officials who have resigned or retired and certain family
members of those listed above.

House Bill 1769

In addition to jail time, any person violating these provisions
shall be ordered by the court to make full restitution to any
person or entity that has sustained actual losses or costs as a
result of the actions of the defendant.

House Bill 1769

Compels any state or local agency or office, including the
Secretary of State and Recorders of Deeds, who receives
document filings and records, to establish a process for law
enforcement review of suspicious filings by January 1, 2019.

If a possible fraudulent or suspicious filing is received, the
agency notes the filing on a spreadsheet and notifies the chief
law enforcement officer and the county prosecutor's office. The
agency must make the documents available for law enforcement
review and investigation at no cost.

House Bill 1769

An affected party may also petition for judicial review of any filing or record that is fraudulent, false, misleading, forged or that contains false information, by filing a Probable Cause with the court.

The court must grant an initial hearing date within 20 business days from the date that the Probable Cause statement is filed with the court.

A subsequent court order may be filed with the Recorder of Deeds, credit bureau, Secretary of State or other office at no cost to the affected party.

Pre-Filing Injunction

El-Bey v. City of Greensboro, et al., 1:10-cv-00572-NCT-JEP
(North Carolina Middle District)

Lawsuit filed after traffic stop naming the City, the individual police officers and others.

Plaintiff had filed other lawsuits against various governmental officials.

Pre-Filing Injunction

City of Greensboro: Order of September 27, 2011

"Finally, given that Plaintiff is apparently unwilling to voluntarily cease his repetitious litigation, the time has now come to put his abuse of the federal judicial system to rest...The undersigned recommends that Plaintiff be placed under a pre-filing injunction requiring him to obtain leave of court before filing any further civil actions. This procedure has been used with regard to other abusive civil litigants, and would serve here to cease the drain on scarce judicial resources imposed by Plaintiff's voluminous

and repetitive filings. The imposition of such an injunction would also serve to protect Defendants, and those in similar positions, from having to respond to baseless and harassing litigation in the future..."

Plaintiff ordered to show cause why pre-filing injunction should not be issued. March 21, 2012

Pre-filing Injunction issued on May 15, 2013.

Affirmed by Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals on September 26, 2013.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS ?
