



LEGAL UPDATE

Impersonating a Police Officer Statute Amended to Include Impersonating Federal Agents

On November 25, 2025, the Legislature amended M.G.L. c. 268, § 33. This statute punishes those who impersonate police officers as well as a variety of other professions, including sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, and probation officers.

The statute was amended in two ways:

1. It added federal officers and employees to the list of protected professions; and
2. it increased the penalties for those who violate the statute.

The statute now reads (new language is bolded):

Whoever falsely assumes or pretends to be a justice of the peace, notary public, sheriff, deputy sheriff, medical examiner, associate medical examiner, constable, police officer, probation officer, or examiner, investigator or other officer appointed by the registrar of motor vehicles, or inspector, investigator or examiner of the department of public utilities or the department of telecommunications and cable, or investigator or other officer of the alcoholic beverages control commission, or investigator or other official of the bureau of special investigations, or examiner, investigator or other officer of the department of revenue, **or an officer or employee acting under the authority of the United States or any department, agency or officer thereof** and acts as such or requires a person to aid or assist him in a matter pertaining to the duty of such officer, **shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 2 1/2 years.**

The changes went into effect on November 25, 2025.

For specific guidance on the application of this case or any law, please consult your supervisor or your department's legal advisor.