



CHAPTER 14

ARTICLE 35 - OFFENSES AGAINST THE PUBLIC PEACE

N.C.G.S. § 14-277.

Impersonation of a law-enforcement or other public officer.

SOURCE	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT	RETRIEVED	SOURCE FINGERPRINT
General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	S.L. 1997-456, s. 2 — eighth act in the lineage	21 September 2026, 05:37 UTC	ccfb346a08669563a658114b - c307f33ea36afe0eb1bcfc8d - d0d5ff2a32800384

§ 14-277(a)

No person shall falsely represent to another that he is a sworn law-enforcement officer. As used in this section, a person represents that he is a sworn law-enforcement officer if he:

- (1) Verbally informs another that he is a sworn law-enforcement officer, whether or not the representation refers to a particular agency;
- (2) Displays any badge or identification signifying to a reasonable individual that the person is a sworn law-enforcement officer, whether or not the badge or other identification refers to a particular law-enforcement agency;
- (3) Unlawfully operates a vehicle on a public street, highway or public vehicular area with an operating red light as defined in G.S. 20-130.1(a); or
- (4) Unlawfully operates a vehicle on a public street, highway, or public vehicular area with an operating blue light as defined in G.S. 20-130.1(c).

§ 14-277(b)

No person shall, while falsely representing to another that he is a sworn law-enforcement officer, carry out any act in accordance with the authority granted to a law-enforcement officer. For purposes of this section, an act in accordance with the authority granted to a law-enforcement officer includes:

- (1) Ordering any person to remain at or leave from a particular place or area;
- (2) Detaining or arresting any person;

- (3) Searching any vehicle, building, or premises, whether public or private, with or without a search warrant or administrative inspection warrant;
- (4) Unlawfully operating a vehicle on a public street or highway or public vehicular area equipped with an operating red light or siren in such a manner as to cause a reasonable person to yield the right-of-way or to stop his vehicle in obedience to such red light or siren;
- (5) Unlawfully operating a vehicle on a public street or highway or public vehicular area equipped with an operating blue light in such a manner as to cause a reasonable person to yield the right-of-way or to stop his vehicle in obedience to such blue light.

§ 14-277(c) Nothing in this section shall prohibit any person from detaining another as provided by G.S. 15A-404 or assisting a law-enforcement officer as provided by G.S. 15A-405.

§ 14-277(d) Repealed by Session Laws 1995 (Reg. Sess., 1996), c. 712, s. 1.

§ 14-277(d1) Violations under this section are punishable as follows:

CLASS I / H FELONY

- (1) A violation of subdivision (a)(1), (2), or (3) is a Class 1 misdemeanor.
- (2) A violation of subdivision (b)(1), (2), (3), or (4) is a Class 1 misdemeanor.
Notwithstanding the disposition in G.S. 15A-1340.23, the court may impose an intermediate punishment on a person sentenced under this subdivision.
- (3) A violation of subdivision (a)(4) is a Class I felony.
- (4) A violation of subdivision (b)(5) is a Class H felony.

§ 14-277(e) It shall be unlawful for any person other than duly authorized employees of a county, a municipality or the State of North Carolina, including but not limited to, the Department of Social Services, Health, Area Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Authority or Building Inspector to represent to any person that they are duly authorized employees of a county, a municipality or the State of North Carolina or one of the above-enumerated departments and acting upon such representation to perform any act, make any investigation, seek access to otherwise confidential information, perform any duty of said office, gain access to any place not otherwise open to the public, or seek to be afforded any privilege which would otherwise not be afforded to such person except for such false representation or make any attempt to do any of said enumerated acts. Any person, corporation, or

business association violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I
8 ACTS

Amendment lineage

The State prints this history as a single parenthetical at the foot of the section. It is reproduced verbatim in the colophon and unpacked below in order of enactment.

1927

1962

1997

TICK HEIGHT = ACTS IN THAT YEAR DASHED = RECODIFICATION, NOT AMENDMENT

Nº	YEAR	ACT	CHARACTER
01	1927	c. 229	ENACTED
02	1985	c. 761, s. 1	AMENDED
03	1985	1985 (Reg. Sess., 1986), c. 863, s. 3	AMENDED
04	1985	1991 (Reg. Sess., 1992), c. 1030, s. 7	AMENDED
05	1993	c. 539, ss. 170, 171	AMENDED
06	1994	Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c)	AMENDED
07	1994	1995 (Reg. Sess., 1996), c. 712, s. 1	AMENDED
08	1997	S.L. 1997-456, s. 2	AMENDED

APPARATUS II
5 AUTHORITIES

Authorities referenced

Every G.S. cross-reference appearing in the text of this section, in order of first appearance. Nothing is characterized; the operative language is quoted from the section itself.

REFERENCE	APPEARS IN	OPERATIVE LANGUAGE IN THIS SECTION
G.S. 20-130.1(a)	(a)(3)	"operating red light as defined in"
G.S. 20-130.1(c)	(a)(4)	"operating blue light as defined in"
G.S. 15A-404	(c)	"from detaining another as provided by"
G.S. 15A-405	(c)	"a law-enforcement officer as provided by"
G.S. 15A-1340.23	(d1)(2)	"1 misdemeanor. Notwithstanding the disposition in"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-277 (1997).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-277(a) (1997).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers: subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

Provenance

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HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE

(1927, c. 229; 1985, c. 761, s. 1; 1985 (Reg. Sess., 1986), c. 863, s. 3; 1991 (Reg. Sess., 1992), c. 1030, s. 7; 1993, c. 539, ss. 170, 171; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c); 1995 (Reg. Sess., 1996), c. 712, s. 1; 1997-456, s. 2.)

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