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What is a forgery and a use of forgery?

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The fake **committed by an individual** is offence (for example, make a fake payslip, a false witness statement). False can also be a **crime** (for example, making fake money). In case of **use of false**, the law punishes him separately, because another person may have fabricated the forgery. As a rule, the use of forgery is punishable by the same penalties as forgery. Attempting these 2 offences is also sanctioned. There are several types of fakes.

Attention : this page shows only the wrong person committed by an individual and not a legal professional.

What is forgery and the use of forgery in a private document?

Relevant facts

The author of the forgery voluntarily amends a document to change the truth. The forgery is punishable when the forgery can cause actual or potential harm. The fake exists even if the goal is not achieved.

This forgery must enable proof of a right or fact with legal consequences to be obtained.

The false is one of the following:

- Make a completely false document (a false salary slip, a false diploma, a false resume, a false resume) olograph testament (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F770?lang=en> ...)
- Modify a document in part (increase your salary on your payslip, modify a medical certificate....). The document is not a forgery at the outset, but inaccurate written statements have been provided.
- Make a false signature or imitate a signature.

A person who has made use of the amended document is punishable even if he is not the author of the forgery or if the forgery is unknown or could not be prosecuted.

It's possible that the same person could do these two offences in a row, so we're talking about These offences are misdemeanour. Attempting these 2 offences is also punishable.

Sanctions

The offence of forgery, such as forgery, is punishable by 3 years in prison and **€45,000** fine. These 2 offences can be punished separately.

Please note

..... additional sanctions (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1406?lang=en>) . He may also be ordered to pay damages (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1422?lang=en>) (reimbursement of benefits,...)

What is the false certificate or certificate and its use?

Relevant facts

The offence is punishable when a person makes a statement or certificate of inaccurate facts or voluntarily amends a genuine certificate or certificate.

The lie must relate to an essential element of the act.

It is a document containing inaccurate facts and the author's authentic signature.

Anyone who gives a sum of money to the author of the false statement in order to convince him to write it is guilty of complicity.

This fake can be, for example, one of the following documents:

- Falsified certificate of successful completion of the licence to enrol in master of law
- written by a person indicating violence committed by a wife against her husband
- False medical certificate

Sanctions

Use or establish a false certificate, a false certificate is punishable by 1 year in prison and **€15,000** fine.

If the false certificate, the false certificate is prejudicial to another person or to the public treasury (except in cases of tax fraud), the maximum penalties are increased to 3 years in prison and **€45,000** fine.

Please note

The perpetrator also risks [additional sanctions \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1406?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1406?lang=en). He may be ordered to pay damages [\(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1422?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1422?lang=en).

What is fake and use of fake in an administration document?

Relevant facts

The following acts may be punished:

- Manufacture of a false document issued by the administration (carte grise, national identity card, identity document issued by a foreigners consulate, vital card...). The use of forgery is punished and the attempt is punished.
- Holding a false administrative document (driving without a driving licence using a false licence, for example).
- Provision of a false administrative document to a person to establish a right (e.g. a professional card), an identity or to grant a permission (e.g. a building permit). Attempt is punished too.
- False declaration or incomplete declaration to obtain an allowance, a benefit, a payment or a benefit (false declaration to obtain the RSA, family benefits...). Attempt is punished too.
- Use of an identity document in the name of another person to enter or stay in France or to obtain an administrative advantage (residence permit, for example). Attempt is punished too.

FYI

If the person is lying on their tax return, it is a case of [tax fraud \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F31451?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F31451?lang=en).

Sanctions

If the false document is a document issued by the administration, the sentences are 5 years in prison and **€75,000** fine.

The simple possession of false document is punishable by 2 years in prison and **€30,000** fine. If there is more than one fake, the sentences are 5 years in prison and **€75,000** fine.

The provision of false administrative document shall be punishable by 5 years in prison and **€75,000** fine.

The deception in an administrative process is punishable by 2 years in prison and **€30,000** fine.

The using an identity document on behalf of another person to enter or remain in France shall be punishable by 5 years in prison and **€75,000** fine. If the act is committed on a regular basis, the penalties are 7 years in prison and **€100 000** fine.

Please note

The perpetrator risks [additional sanctions \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1406?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1406?lang=en). He may also be ordered to pay damages [\(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1422?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1422?lang=en) (reimbursement of allowances paid by the Caf, for example).

What is counterfeit money and its use?

It is possible to distinguish 3 main facts.

Imitation or modification of coins or notes

The imitation or modification of coins and banknotes, having official value and recognised as means of payment in France, is a punishable offence. There's no need for imitation to be perfect. It is enough that the use can be possible, to the detriment of actual coins or notes.

These offences are punishable as crimes. They are punished even if they are committed outside France and regardless of the nationality of the perpetrator.

These offences are punishable by 30 years in prison and **€450,000** fine.

Manufacture of coins or notes

The production of coins and banknotes, using authorised materials, but in violation of the conditions laid down by the State, is also punishable.

These offences are punishable as crimes. They are punished even if they are committed outside France and regardless of the nationality of the perpetrator.

The production of counterfeit currency is punishable by 30 years in prison and **€450,000** fine.

Release of counterfeit currency

It is the fact of paying for your purchase at a shop with fake tickets of 20 €, 50 €... This offence is an offence.

The **circulation of counterfeit currency** and **attempt** shall be punishable by 5 years' imprisonment and **€75,000** fine.

Statute and miscellaneous references

- Penal Code: Articles 441-1 to 441-12 (https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000006070719/LEGISCTA000006149854/)
False and use of false

Penal Code: Articles 442-1 to 442-16

- (https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000006070719/LEGISCTA000006149855/)
False currency

Penal Code: Articles 113-6 to 113-13 (<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?>

- [idArticle=LEGIARTI000006417191&idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006165263&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070719](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idArticle=LEGIARTI000006417191&idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006165263&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070719))
Application of French law, for offence of counterfeit currency committed outside France

FAQ

Social Security Fraud: What Consequences? ([https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F20014?](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F20014?lang=en)

- [lang=en](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F20014?lang=en))

What penalties for tax evasion? ([https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F31451?](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F31451?lang=en)

- [lang=en](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F31451?lang=en))