

# Sovereign Citizen Encounters : A Guide for ACOs & LEOs

Prairie States Conference  
Illinois Animal Welfare Federation  
2017  
Bloomington, Illinois



# What is a “Sovereign Citizen”

The overall movement is a loosely organized collection of groups, organizations and individuals who are adherents to a right-wing anarchist ideology that denies the legitimacy of almost every existing government body (Federal, state or local) in the United States. They claim to be seeking to “restore” the nation to a minimalist governmental state which has never actually existed.

# What is a “Sovereign Citizen”

- Independent “Anarchist” ideologists
- Includes a variety of movements
- SC’s differentiate between a “state citizen” and a “14th Amendment United States federal citizen”, and claim that the state republics existed before the 14th Amendment
- Believe that as a “citizen of a state republic”, they were fraudulently incorporated into U.S. federal citizenship with passage of the 14th Amendment
- Do not recognize government as having authority over them in any way
- Do not recognize police or most law enforcement with exception of the titular “Sheriff”

# What is a “Sovereign Citizen”

- The sovereign citizen movement argues that if you closely study the Constitution, you can prove that federal laws are illegitimate
- This allows them free to choose not to pay taxes or follow traffic laws
- Believe that getting a Social Security Number or driver’s license enters them into a contract that forfeits their sovereignty



**The Sovereign Citizen's Handbook**

# What is a “Sovereign Citizen”

Sovereign citizens believe that they are answerable only to English Common Law and are not subject to any statutes or proceedings at the federal, state or municipal levels. This is demonstrated through some recognizing only a “Sheriff” as having any “legitimate” authority.

They reject taxation as illegitimate and frequently challenge “municipal corporations” or “cities” as legitimate governmental organizations.



# What is a “Sovereign Citizen”

- Original SC organizations were comprised of mostly white supremacists and anti-Semites
- Sovereign theorists subscribed to theory that “Jews” controlled financial institutions from behind-the-scenes and manipulated government for their own benefit

# Where are the Sovereign Citizens?

SC's may be found in every state and most jurisdictions. They have state specific movements and groups which can be found through a simple internet search. Some of the most active states include:

- California
- Michigan
- Montana
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- Florida
- Missouri
- North Carolina
- Oregon
- Washington

# Sovereign Citizens & the Federal Government

- The FBI notes that the sovereign citizen movement is one of the nation's top domestic terrorist threats
- The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) notes that SC's have made over 1400 threats against IRS agents and engaged in systematic opposition of IRS activities
- Frequent interaction with Federal Courts through the filing of liens and other court actions against government employees



# Sovereign Citizens & the IRS

- In the 1990's the IRS estimated that there were approximately 250,000 tax protestors (not all full-blown SC's)
- From news & media, it appears that number has grown substantially
- IRS no longer tracks these persons as Congress prohibited tracking / labeling persons who file frivolous suits or paperwork versus paying taxes
- Current media estimates place actual SC's as numbering 300,000 or more
- The FBI estimates place it as high as 500,000

# Sovereign Citizens & Federal Agencies

Anger towards most Federal agencies is common

- FEMA
- EPA
- US Postal Service
- Census Bureau
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms

# Sovereign Citizen Phrases / Terms

- “Indigenous”
- “El-Bey”
- “Sovereign”
- “De Facto Government”
- “Where is your oath of office?”
- “Domicile”
- “Travelling in a commercial capacity”
- “Who is the victim?”
- “Non-resident alien”
- “Aboriginal”
- “Conveyance”

# Sovereign Citizen Tactics

They will engage in extensive “paper terrorism” by filing frivolous lawsuits and PERSONAL liens against public officials, law enforcement officers, animal control officers and private citizens. They may not recognize the courts’ authority over THEM; however, they will file plenty of court paperwork against YOU.

Paper terrorism involves the use of fraudulent legal documents and filings, as well as the misuse of legitimate documents and filings, in order to intimidate, harass and coerce public officials, law enforcement officers and private citizens.



# Sovereign Citizen Tactics

A SC was engaged in a protracted legal battle in 2010 over having to pay dog licensing fees. She filed a total of 10 sovereign documents in court over a two month period then declared victory with the prosecutor decided to drop the case due to the impact on the office.

Florida dog owner Donna Lee Wray fought a \$25 fine over a \$20 dog license. In addition to the 10 SC documents, she filed more than 65 separate motions and pleadings. She later marketed her strategy as “This is how you get out of taxes.”

[http://www.abajournal.com/magazine/article/sovereign\\_citizens\\_plaster\\_courts\\_with\\_bogus\\_legal\\_filings](http://www.abajournal.com/magazine/article/sovereign_citizens_plaster_courts_with_bogus_legal_filings)

# Sovereign Citizen Tactics

Convicted animal hoarder, Samantha Hughes, filed court actions against the charging officer and argued in court that the state of Ohio did not exist, having no authority over her. After a second search of the home where she was under electronic detention, fictitious web posts including unreleased details were posted accusing the officer of sex crimes against animals. Weapons were found in every room of the house.



<http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/news/judge-rules-in-favor-of-county-removing-13-dogs-fr/ngbg5/>

# Sovereign Citizen Court Filings

- A notice of copyright as to the person's name, often labeled "Common Law Copyright Notice."
- "Registered Warrant Claim for Trust Special Deposit."
- Filings responding to traffic tickets or other charges labeling those documents as "abandoned paperwork" and demanding that the court official respond with authentication of authority, a certified copy of the official's oath, a certified copy of the officials "Bar Bond", and so on.
- A response to a traffic ticket or other charge labeled as an "Affidavit of Specific Negative Averment, Opportunity to Cure, and Counterclaim."
- "Negative averment" appears on various documents, with the idea that it puts the burden on the official to respond.
- "Notice of International Commercial Claim Within The Admiralty ab initio Administrative Remedy."
- Notices of default and commercial liens and demands for payment.
- "Express Specific Reservations of Rights."
- "Certification of Non-Response."
- An invoice for an outrageous sum of money, in the millions or billions of dollars.
- "Non-Negotiable Declaration in the Form for Trust Affidavit in Commerce."



# Traveler (SC) License Plates

- Home manufactured
- Paper or cardboard in some cases
- Some “hand written” or “drawn”





# Traveler (SC) License Plates

- May list actual state's name
- May list fictitious states, counties or countries
- May list “constitutional statutes”



# Traveler (SC) License Plates



# Traveler (SC) Identification






# Traveler (SC) Identification

- Odd punctuation in names
- Inclusion of colons :  
or hyphens in names –
- Absence of ZIP Code
- ZIP Code in [brackets]
- Issued by “Kingdom of Heaven” or “Little Shell Pembina Band”



# Special Correspondence

- Exemption from laws / regulations
- Fictitious address
- Biblical citations
- Claim that laws don't apply
- Claim that money is false
- Cites common law
- Claims only gold & silver coin are acceptable for payments

 SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Cert. Mail # 691 210 Date: fifth day of sixth month in  
"Without Prejudice UCC 1-207" the year of our Lord, JESUS  
the Christ nineteen-hundred  
ninety-six, Anno Domini.

To: Whom It May Concern, OFFICER KAMINKY # 4820, COMMERCIAL LICENSE # CSP-760

From: Master: Larry Alan, Longacre, sui juris, Bth Judicial District  
CO 1550 Blue Spruce Dr. Box 58

City/State Fort Collins, Colorado state, (24), America (ZIP Exempt)  
(fully spelled-out state) (NO ZIP)

Dear Sirs:

In regards to payment for 199 SIX license tags, inspection stickers, insurance, and/or driver's license from the Department of Motor Vehicles, and the writing of Traffic Citations by the "Police State" Police of the State of Colorado and officers of its political subdivisions, please be advised that I am EXEMPT from these Traffic Citations because:

The United States Constitution, Article 1, Section 10 EXEMPTS me from this fine since there is no gold or silver coin in circulation today.

Further, your "Bankrupt" agency has NO Authority to demand payment for license tags, inspection stickers, and/or driver's license or other Traffic Fines in anything other than gold or silver coin. Do you on record go against the U.S. Constitution?

Plainly, your "Bankrupt" agency has NO Jurisdiction over this Sovereign American. The Corporate Federal Highway Trust Fund has silently sold the highways to the International Banking Families as collateral in the World Heritage Treaty (UNESCO) in exchange for a debit card entry. They have traded away the Land and the people to the IMF, and consider the American People an Enemy under the 1933 Trading with the Enemy Act of Roosevelt.

"Due Jurisdiction is challenged, it must be proven" (Hegass v. Lavine, 415 U.S. 833, Note 3);  
"No sanction can be imposed absent proof of Jurisdiction" (Stanard v. Owen, 74 S. Ct. 768).

My challenge is in writing: the Jurisdiction of the Department of Motor Vehicles, as well as the Political subdivisions of the State of Colorado, have No Jurisdiction. I Demand all of my rights at the Common Law at All times, and I give up none of my rights at any time.

Because God requires that I not live by a double standard (Deuteronomy 25:14) and because the United States Constitution, Article 1, Section 8, requires a set standard for money, and because the United States Constitution, Article 1 Section 10 requires that All State debt be paid in money of account of the United States of America, and because all United States Congressmen and United States Senators as well as All elected officials are in direct violation of their Sworn Oaths of Offices, I cannot and will not pay State debt in worthless paper money (being Federal Reserve Notes), being debased and Fraudulent and having no backing or substance. My duty to God will not allow deceit, stealing or Fraud. First National Bank of Montgomery v. Jerome Daly clearly shows that their money is "Null and void".

\*Note: the Above is my Proper Venue and is the only way I receive any lawful instrument.

# Moorish Sovereign Citizens

Nation adherents may refer also to the Moorish Science Temple, Moorish Republic, United Nuwaubian Nation of Moors (NUNM), MU'UR Republic or other variations. Moorish sovereigns tend to be black and younger; many get started on this path in prison. They will use the title "Noble" or the words "El-Bey" in their name or in place of their legal name. They may carry what appears to be a passport from a foreign government which lists a make-believe nation.

# Moorish Sovereign Citizens

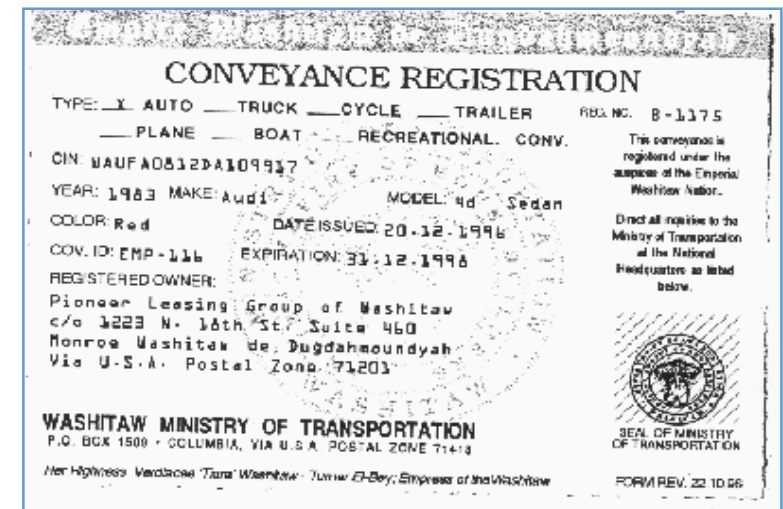
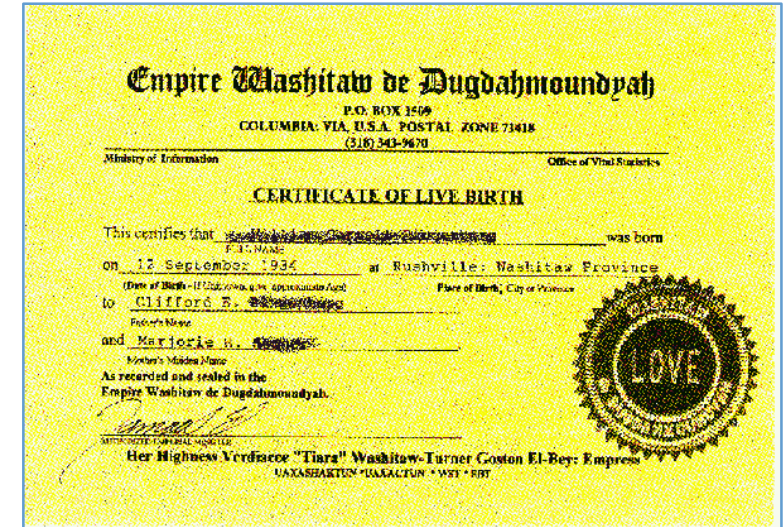
Bravel Wilson, also known as “King Bey”, was charged with animal cruelty and a search warrant served. He claimed to be a SC & a Natural Citizen of Africa, travels in his car but does not “drive” (hence the multiple DUS and No OL convictions). He was convicted of 5 counts of animal cruelty. After firing his attorney, rejecting & then accepting a plea, he filed a “Writ in Arrest of Judgement” which was denied.

<http://www.wejis.com/PA/CaseSummary.cfm?cid=801123>



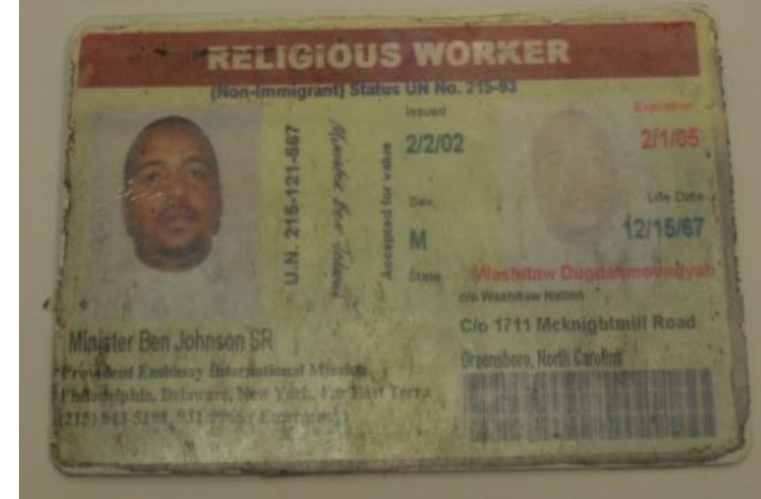
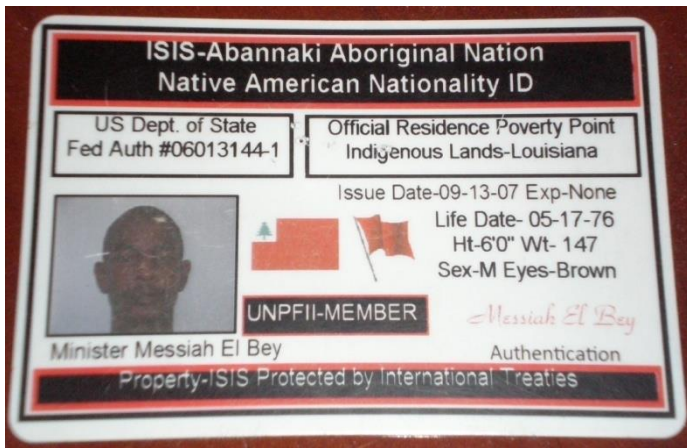
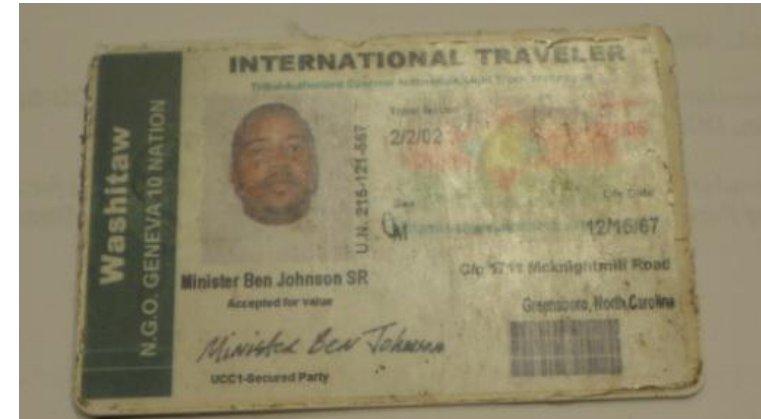
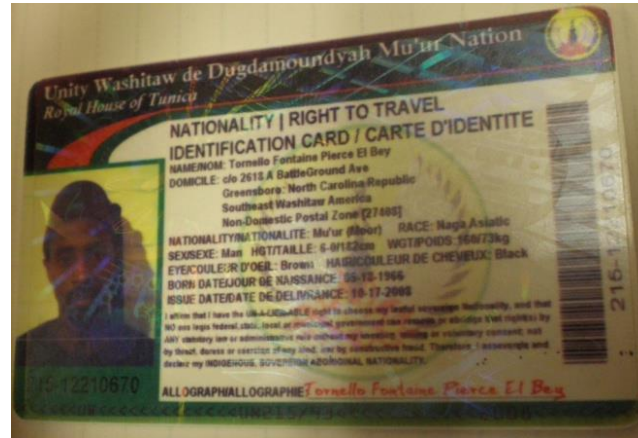
# Washitaw Nation

- A prevalent sovereign group based in North Carolina
- Predominantly black members
- Claim to occupy United Nations seat #215
- Create and utilize fraudulent birth certificates, IDs, vehicle registrations
- Heavily involved in fraud schemes
- Initiate lawsuits and liens against





# Washitaw Nation



# Carolina Liberty and NCAR

- Two other prevalent sovereign NC groups
- Predominately white members
- Both groups challenge legitimate government and LEO authority
- Groups announce members court dates online in efforts to bully court officials to dismiss charges
- Will also seek to bully officers during stops



# Illinois Sovereign Citizen

Daniel Petersen, one of the leaders of the Montana Freeman, who engaged in an 81-day standoff with the Federal government in 1996, was sentenced to 7 ½ years in prison for filing bogus liens against three federal judges. Petersen was still in federal prison in Marion, Illinois at the time he filed the liens, serving out the 15 year prison sentence handed to him by U.S. District Judge John Coughenour, one of the victims of Petersen's liens. Petersen's full scheme reveals the ingenuity and energy of sovereign citizens. He not only filed liens against the federal judges, but also issued bounties for their arrests. Then he created a phony company and recruited other inmates to invest in it, promising them large sums of money after he collected the money (\$100 trillion, plus interest, he told them) that the government allegedly owed him.

# ACO & Law Enforcement Encounters

ACOs and LEOs are likely to encounter these individuals more commonly than any other government official. These confrontations (initiated by the SC) often escalate and can become dangerous and even fatal.

LEOs on car stops or ACOs following up on a routine dog at large charge may encounter SCs without any prior warning.



# ACO & Law Enforcement Encounters

- Utilize extreme officer safety
- Call for backup
- Do not engage in debate; you will be recorded
- Verify identity
- Prohibit cell phone use during encounter
- Seize any false I.D. cards or license plates and follow appropriate procedures
- Book under 'John Doe' if no valid I.D.
- Notify state & Federal law enforcement agencies

# ACO & Law Enforcement Encounters

In Ohio, an SC Michael Hill pulled a gun on an officer during a traffic stop. He was a leader of the “Ohio Unorganized Militia”. Hill, 50, a former Canton, Ohio, police officer, had moved to an isolated part of the state near the West Virginia border to raise dogs. As well as serving as the militia's chief spiritual adviser, Hill was chief justice of a court the militia had established based on Scripture and the Constitution. The number on his tag referred to the part of the Ohio revised code that he cited as proof that the state could not control his right to travel. The officer stopped him for it having non-regulation white metal license plates with professional red lettering: OHIO MILITIA 3-13 CHAPLAIN.

# ACO & Law Enforcement Encounters

Two Middlefield officers stopped James Gilkerson who opened fire with an AK-47. While not tied to any specific SC group, the police chief described him as a domestic terrorist (and a scumbag) who possessed considerable anti-government materials.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q19u2qivGbw>

# ACO & Law Enforcement Encounters

- One Idaho officer was killed and second wounded following a “failure to signal” traffic stop where two (SC) brothers, Doug & Craig Broderick opened fire on the officers before being killed in a gun battle
- New Hampshire SC Carl Drega killed two police officers & two civilians, wounded three more officers before being killed





# ACO & Law Enforcement Encounters

Jerry Kane & his teenaged son Joe, both SCs, killed two West Memphis police officers in Arkansas in 2010 after the officers pulled the Kanes over and stopped them on the highway. The picture from the officers' dash cam shows Jerry outside the vehicle, armed. Father & son were both killed later that day in a shoot out with other officers.



# ACO & Law Enforcement Encounters

Alabama SC Robert Lawrence was shot & killed in December 2014 by Dothan Police after they were called to the Dothan City Animal Shelter. Lawrence attempted to turn in a cat and refused to show identification. He then identified himself with a SC ID and claimed he was not bound by federal, state or local laws. When police tried to calm him down, he refused and was shot during the arrest attempt. The officers were later cleared and the Prosecutor said Lawrence had obvious anger management issues and often expressed anti-government views. Supporters portrayed him as a “Good Samaritan trying to go a good deed,” but dismissed the verbal, then physical altercation that included a Taser deployment which ultimately ended with deadly force. A Federal civil lawsuit was filed in December 2016 by the estate alleging that Lawrence was killed unlawfully for trying to turn in a “dog” at the shelter.



# ACO & Law Enforcement Encounters

Jerry Kane & his teenaged son Joe.

Why is this related to ACOs? Jerry Kane's wife was Donna Lee Wray. Small world....



# QUESTIONS

For additional information visit

<https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/ideology/sovereign-citizens-movement>

[http://www.aamva.org/uploadedFiles/MainSite/Content/EventsEducation/Event Materials/2016/2016 AIC/Sovereign%20Citizens ROBERTS.pdf](http://www.aamva.org/uploadedFiles/MainSite/Content/EventsEducation/Event%20Materials/2016/2016%20AIC/Sovereign%20Citizens%20ROBERTS.pdf)

# For Further Information:

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