



August 2011

# NIBRS Coding Scenarios

## Impersonation?

**Issue:** Agencies often ask what offense code to use in incidents where the offender gives a false name. Sometimes it can be coded as a "26C - Fraud-Impersonation" other times it can be coded to a "90Z - All Other Offenses". Here are two scenarios as to what would constitute a "90Z - All Other Offenses" and what type of incident would be coded as a "26C - Fraud-Impersonation".

**Scenario #1:** A driver is pulled over for speeding and the officer asks him whose car he is driving. The driver lies to the officer and tells him a name of a person other than the owner. Additionally, the driver could give the police officer the wrong address of where he lives. These would be what we would call a False Report or Statement and a "90Z - All Other Offenses" would result if an arrest is made or a summons or a citation is issued. Keep in mind, it would be a "26C Fraud-Impersonation" if the driver gives a name other than his own and identifies himself as someone else.

**Scenario #2:** A driver is pulled over for speeding and has a warrant out for his arrest. The officer asks the driver for his license and he advises he does not have one. The officer then asks him for his name and DOB. The driver gives the name and DOB of someone other than himself. This would be coded to "26C - Fraud-Impersonation".

Agencies also ask who is the victim in this instance - the officer that was lied to or the person whose name was falsely used? The officer is the victim, but you cannot use L=Law Enforcement Officer as the victim type for a Fraud. Instead, we would use G=Government for which the police officer works for i.e. county, city, state government (for whom he/she is employed).

The property segment would capture whatever the proceeds were from the impersonation. The property for Impersonation can be, and most likely will be, what we call an "Intangible" - anything that cannot be perceived by the sense of touch. Examples: a right or a privilege, a promotion, an enhanced reputation or a detriment, or someone's injured feelings. Intangibles go into the Property Description as "77 - Other".

Example: I knew your wife is expecting a very expensive diamond necklace that she ordered online from Zales. The FedEx guy comes to deliver the necklace and no one else is around except me. I say I am your wife and take possession of the necklace. "17 - Jewelry" would be reported in the property segment since that is what the proceeds are of the impersonation. (If I signed your wife's name, we would also have the offense "250 - Counterfeiting/Forgery".)

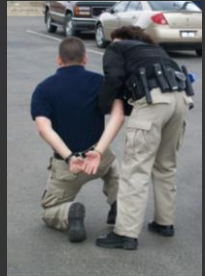
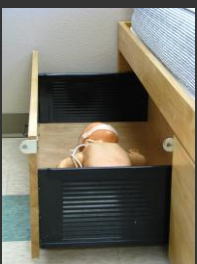
Example: Someone goes to Wells Fargo Bank and claims to be me. They withdraw cash from my account. The property description would be "20 - Money". (Now if they filled out a withdrawal slip, we would also have the offense "250 - Counterfeiting/ Forgery".)

**Reference:** NIBRS Volume 1: Data Collection Guidelines (blue cover), Page 27 Impersonation.

*Note that the preceding gives general examples. It is not meant to be all inclusive. Coding is based on individual case circumstances. Please direct NIBRS questions to:*



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