



Virginia defines fraud generally as intentional deception—a false representation of a material fact by words or conduct, or concealment of what should have been disclosed—made to induce another party to act to their detriment.



Penalties vary widely based on the specific type of fraud and the value involved:

- **False Pretenses/Larceny (§ 18.2-178):**
 - **Felony (Grand Larceny):** If the value of property or money obtained is \$500 or more, the crime is punishable by up to 20 years in prison.
 - **Misdemeanor (Petit Larceny):** If the value is less than \$500, it's a Class 1 misdemeanor (up to 12 months in jail and/or a fine up to \$2,500).
- **Forgery (§ 18.2-172):**
 - Forging certain non-public writings is a Class 5 felony (one to 10 years in prison, or up to 12 months in jail and/or a fine up to \$2,500).
 - Forging public records is a Class 4 felony (two to 10 years in prison and a fine up to \$100,000).
- **Identity Theft (§ 18.2-186.3):**
 - Often a Class 6 felony (one to five years in prison, or up to 12 months in jail and/or a fine up to \$2,500), but penalties can be higher (up to a Class 4 felony) depending on the facts.

Penalties can range from a Class 1 misdemeanor to up to 20 years in prison depending on the specific statute violated, the monetary loss, and other factors.