

# Tex. Pen. Code § 32.48

## Section 32.48 - Simulating Legal Process

**(a)** A person commits an offense if the person recklessly causes to be delivered to another any document that simulates a summons, complaint, judgment, or other court process with the intent to:

**(1)** induce payment of a claim from another person; or

**(2)** cause another to:

**(A)** submit to the putative authority of the document; or

**(B)** take any action or refrain from taking any action in response to the document, in compliance with the document, or on the basis of the document.

**(b)** Proof that the document was mailed to any person with the intent that it be forwarded to the intended recipient is a sufficient showing that the document was delivered.

**(c)** It is not a defense to prosecution under this section that the simulating document:

**(1)** states that it is not legal process; or

**(2)** purports to have been issued or authorized by a person or entity who did not have lawful authority to issue or authorize the document.

**(d)** If it is shown on the trial of an offense under this section that the simulating document was filed with, presented to, or delivered to a clerk of a court or an employee of a clerk of a court created or established under the constitution or laws of this state, there is a rebuttable presumption that the document was delivered with the intent described by Subsection (a).

**(e)** Except as provided by Subsection (f), an offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

**(f)** If it is shown on the trial of an offense under this section that the defendant has previously been convicted of a violation of this section, the offense is a state jail felony.

*Tex. Pen. Code § 32.48*

Added by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 189, Sec. 3, eff. 5/21/1997.

---