



New York State to begin issuing REAL ID compliant cards this year

As New York City marks the sixteenth year since the 9/11 terror attacks ravaged its skyline, the New York State DMV announced a major improvement to mitigate against such an attack from happening again in the future. According to the DMV's website, the department will begin issuing REAL ID compliant driver's licenses, permits, and ID cards on October 30, 2017. The REAL ID Act was passed in 2005 to keep fraudulent driver's licenses and ID cards out of the hands of terrorists, who used them to board the airplanes that took down the twin towers. The state will continue offering Enhanced Driver's Licenses, which can be used as proof of identity to fly commercially and cross land borders, and non-compliant licenses, which will be marked, "not for federal purposes." REAL ID compliant driver's licenses in New York mark a major accomplishment in the struggle to keep our identity documents secure.

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South Carolina DMV unveils site to prep customers for REAL ID

As South Carolina approaches its targeted 2018 issuance of REAL ID compliant driver's licenses and ID cards, the state's DMV has unveiled a more convenient way for residents to obtain

them. Thanks to its newly designed mobile first web-based ordering system, driver's license applicants can now login to learn if they are eligible for compliant cards. According to the South Carolina DMV's Executive Director, this will eliminate the need for customers to "call, wait on hold, and confirm that all of the needed documents are on file for you to get a REAL ID." Further, these inquiries can be done at any hour of the day, not just during regular business hours, saving customers and staff time and effort. South Carolina will be one of the later states to issue REAL ID compliant cards and has seen many other DMVs struggle with public information campaigns associated with their roll-outs. This mobile first effort should help keep its customers informed and ready for the changes as the DMV joins the ranks of the other secured states.

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Missouri becomes the final state to commit to REAL ID

In late August, the Show-me state became the very last one to commit to REAL ID compliance after Gov. Eric Greitens signed HB 151 into law. Now in effect, the new state law requires the Missouri Department of Revenue to amend its procedures of issuing driver's licenses and identification cards to comply with the Real ID Act. Missouri finally joins the other 49 states and the District of Columbia in changing its laws to allow for its driver's license issuing agencies to meet REAL ID identity security requirements. Missouri applicants will be able to choose a REAL ID-compliant driver license or identification card or a non-compliant driver license or identification card, but availability is years away. The REAL ID-compliant driver's license or identification card can be used as identification for commercial domestic air travel, and gaining access to military bases and most federal government facilities, while the non-compliant license or card cannot.

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Michigan says it's issuing REAL ID compliant cards, begins warning residents about coming deadline

On August 28, Michigan began offering its residents the option of obtaining a REAL ID compliant driver's license, according to its driver's license issuing agency's website. The Michigan Secretary of State, Ruth Johnson, said, "to avoid future headaches for travelers, we will offer a compliant card for those who want one, and, for those who don't, we still have the standard card for normal identification purposes." However, as of Monday, the Department of Homeland Security's webpage for REAL ID compliance still [shows Michigan as operating on an extension to achieve compliance](#). The Department of Homeland Security would need to certify Michigan as compliant before its driver's licenses and ID cards will be accepted for air travel after enforcement of the REAL ID Act at airports.

The Michigan Secretary of State webpage also incorrectly states that, "Beginning Oct. 1, 2020, Michigan residents will need to present a REAL ID-compliant document to fly within the United States and enter certain federal facilities under federal law." It is true that Michigan residents will not be able to present non-compliant cards as proof of identity to TSA agents and military base checkpoints for entry, but they can use other proofs of identity from a list of approved items, like a U.S. passport.

[Click here for Michigan's REAL ID page](#)

The North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles began issuing what it says are REAL ID compliant licenses in May of this year. However, like Michigan, Department of Homeland Security maps and information still show North Carolina as being granted an extension to comply. DHS would need to certify North Carolina as compliant before the state's IDs can be used for federal purposes upon the deadline. The state DMV has already issued over 115,000 of the documents.

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Another Terrorist Attack, Another Fake ID

The August terrorist attack in Spain that killed 13 people marked the fifth mass murder in Europe by Islamist terrorists using heavy vehicles in just over a year. The other attacks include four killed in Sweden, 84 killed in France, 12 killed in Germany, and five killed in the UK. This deadly trend taking shape may show that sophisticated terror attacks, the kind that involve skilled airplane pilots, miniaturized explosives, Middle East training camps, and/or complex funding networks, may be less prevalent in the future. Such plots involve extensive coordination with many steps, each step with its own chance of failure, exposure, or law enforcement interdiction. Recent attacks prove that today's terrorists may not need to rely on any of that complex planning. To commit mass murder, all a terrorist needs is the keys to a vehicle.

So how does a terrorist get a vehicle? In ISIS's 2015 manual, "How to Survive in the West," terrorists are told to rent vehicles with "fake identity papers." It goes on to instruct undercover operatives to "install bombs in them and set off the car bombs near Synagogues, near governmental or police buildings, near gas pipelines or near those who are harming the Muslims." And, according to ISIS, the bigger the vehicle, the better. In an issue of its propaganda magazine, Rumiya, ISIS instructs that, "smaller vehicles lack the weight and wheel span required for crushing many victims" and that operatives should stick to larger cars and trucks. That's why Mohamed Lahouaiej-Bouhlel walked into a rental company in France and said, "I want the biggest, most powerful vehicle you have." He walked out with the keys to a 20-ton refrigerator truck which he plowed through a national celebration in Nice last year.

The terrorists responsible for last Thursday's attack in Spain, in which a rented van barreled down a main avenue in Barcelona slaughtering over a dozen people, followed this advice perfectly. The van used in the attack was rented using a fraudulent identification document, a stolen ID card. Further, the credit card used to rent that vehicle was also used to rent two other vans destined for other attacks. Spanish authorities say the perpetrator was part of a twelve

person plot that had collected 120 gas canisters they planned to use in vehicular attacks. We can't stress this enough: the people responsible for this attack followed the ISIS manual step by step.

Terrorists using fake IDs to rent vehicles isn't new. Timothy McVeigh set the precedent here in the U.S. back in 1995, when he hand-made a South Dakota driver's license with a heated iron and a typewriter and used it to rent the Ryder truck he detonated in Oklahoma City. The trouble is, he could do it again today - and it would be even easier. There's no need to hand make a fake ID these days when one can be ordered from dozens of different websites and delivered to your doorstep in days. A terrorist can pick any picture he or she chooses along any name and address (probably one matching a fraudulent credit card) and receive a high quality counterfeit ID ready to go in his or her wallet.

Next, that fake ID can be used to rent not only large vehicles, like vans, but actual box trucks. Right now, a known terrorist can walk into a truck rental store anywhere in the country and easily rent this destructive weapon for as long as he or she needs. If they are on a watchlist or are trying to avoid one, the terrorist can simply show that fake ID. If the Barcelona terrorist driver wanted to perpetrate the same attack through Times Square but was on a terrorist watch list, he could simply order an ID online, show it at the closest truck rental company, and walk out with the keys to anything from a cargo van to a 26-foot behemoth with a 7,400 pound capacity. In fact, the Barcelona terrorist could use the same stolen ID that he showed in Spain to get his van because most truck rental companies even accept foreign driver's licenses. I don't know how to verify a European driver's license, and I can guarantee the person at the cash register doesn't either.

ISIS has written that, "vehicles are like knives, as they are extremely easy to acquire. But unlike knives, which if found in one's possession can be a cause for suspicion, vehicles arouse absolutely no doubts." Avoiding that suspicion is doubly effective when a terrorist can use a fake ID. The Berlin truck attacker used 14 different identities in Germany alone to escape an extensive criminal record when he killed twelve holiday market shoppers. The 2015 and 2016 Paris and Brussels attackers used fake IDs to rent cars, rent safe houses, and cross borders undetected. And of course, the 9/11 hijackers used over 30 different fake IDs to bring down the World Trade Center.

Too many truck rental company have too few driver's license verification procedures in place. It is past time that we start verifying people are who they say they are before handing them such a potentially deadly tool. We must prevent terrorists from using fake IDs to get behind the wheel of a weapon before it's too late.



Hurricane Harvey survivors in Texas now in the cross hairs of fraudsters

Because of Hurricane Harvey, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) will help residents

who lost their driver's licenses during the storm. Driver's licenses are a crucial tool to connect a person to his or her identity and belongings, especially in times of disaster. Texas DPS will provide free driver's license or ID cards for residents in counties declared emergency areas, provided they previously held Texas IDs. Texas DPS is also assisting half a million people potentially displaced by the storm. The Federal Bureau of Investigation is also working with Texas DPS to help Texans avoid scams and frauds during the recovery process. The FBI is telling disaster survivors to "beware of emails claiming to seek donations for major disaster relief efforts." The Bureau will be checking for such solicitations for fraudulent websites and emails and will thoroughly investigate all complaints.

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Unspecified number of driver's license data hacked in Equifax breach

The consumer credit reporting agency, Equifax, told news outlets last week that over 143 million United States based users of the service had their personally identifiable information compromised. The company says that the breach began as far back as May and continued until July, when it was finally discovered. Reportedly, hackers exploited a "website application vulnerability" to obtain personal data of almost half the country, as well as British and Canadian consumers. That information included Social Security numbers and birth dates, which can be the key ingredients to comprehensive identity theft. Making matters worse, the company says that hackers stole an "unspecified number" of driver's license data, as well as 209,000 credit card numbers and 182,000 credit dispute documents.

Public safety officials and identity theft protection agencies are warning the staggering amount of victims of the potential consequences of identity theft and advising on steps to mitigate against it. The most consistent piece of advise is to check with Equifax to see if your information may have been compromised. If so, the company is offering free credit monitoring. Early detection and immediate action is the best way to stop damage to your credit before it starts. Experts also advise freezing your credit reporting if you have fallen victim to the hack.

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Driver's licenses for sale in Pennsylvania

In a serious case of insider fraud at PennDOT, an employee at the state's driver's license agency was arrested and charged with bribery and conspiracy for making over \$14,000 by selling valid driver's licenses to undocumented and unqualified foreign nationals. At a price

of \$1,500 to \$3,000 a piece, anyone from any country could come to driver's license examiner Henry Gibbs in Philadelphia and buy a license. These operations were facilitated by a shadowy middleman, Bakary Camara, who would first meet the clients right in the PennDOT parking lot. There, he would exchange the cash for forged tax letters and phone bills along with stolen Social Security numbers. Gibbs then knowingly accepted the fraudulent documents and entered his customers' information into state databases before issuing them valid documents. Some of these documents were commercial driver's licenses, which can be used to operate heavy trucks - a dangerous weapon for a human smuggler, drug smuggler, or terrorist. Gibbs and Camara each face federal charges of bribery and conspiracy - crimes carrying potential sentences of up to 15 years.

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Facial recognition technology at NY DMVs continues to catch crooks

A furniture mover in New York with a criminal record stole a customer's identity information and took it to Florida. There, the thief was able to get a license under the victim's name. With the fraudulently obtained license, he leased a car and withdrew \$50,000 cash from the victim's bank account. However, the perpetrator was caught due to facial recognition technology.

In the 20 months since new and more accurate facial recognition technology has been implemented in New York State DMVs, the software has led to 4,000 arrests for identity theft and/or fraud. The Department of Motor Vehicles' Facial Recognition Technology Program has uncovered more than 21,000 possible cases of identity theft or fraud since its launch. Over 7,000 of those cases were generated in the last 18 months alone. The New York DMV leads the nation in use of facial recognition for driver's license applicants to catch identity thieves, dangerous drivers who have lost driving privileges in other states, or worse. Many times, the technology also catches serious career criminals.

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ROGUE'S GALLERY

Woman gets free ride to jail - and free stay

A Georgia woman was on her way to visit an inmate in the Niagara County jail in New York before police provided her a personal escort. That's because Lynronica L. Johnson was seen

speeding down the shoulder of the road to pass multiple vehicles, including a dump truck. When deputies examined her driver's licenses, both of them, they discovered a list of infractions that prohibited her from taking the wheel. One license was from New York and the other from Georgia - both states that participate in the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators state to state verification system. This allowed the officers to query Johnson's history in the respective jurisdictions, which uncovered that both licenses had been suspended. She was then placed under arrest and taken to jail.

[Click here for the story](#)

It's now been 16 years since 9/11 - and the driver's license loophole STILL hasn't been fixed!

Did you know that fake IDs are used for so much more than underage drinking? The 9/11 Commission said that identity documents were as important as weapons for the hijackers. Check out our video to learn how criminals, thieves, and even terrorists use fake IDs to commit their crimes.



Support Keeping IDentities Safe



See how we help keep IDs out of the hands of criminals and terrorists!

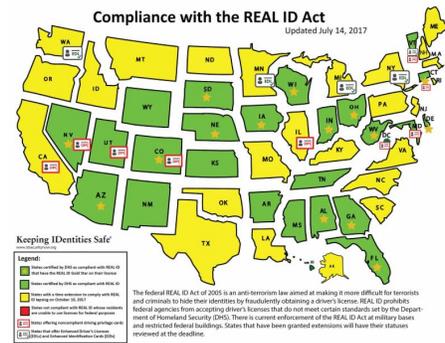


Check out our Keeping IDentities Safe for KIDS program, providing IDs for children!

How are we fighting driver's license fraud?

- By raising awareness
 - By working with law enforcement
 - By helping states comply with REAL ID
 - By working with state legislators all over the country
 - By providing research
 - By working every day to protect your identity documents!
- We can only continue to do this with your support*

[Click here for more!](#)



Keeping IDentities Safe
info@idsecuritynow.org | <http://idsecuritynow.org>



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