



# **How to Verify State Issued Driver's Licenses and Identification Cards**

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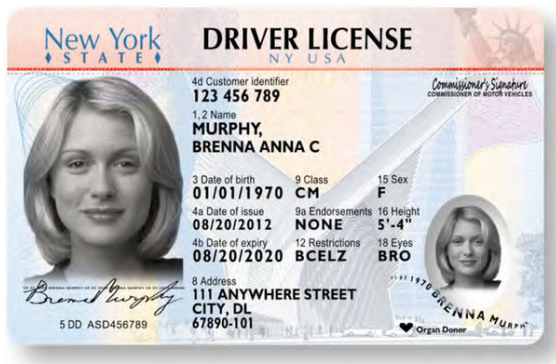
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*Dedicated to Protect Against Illegal Drug Seeking Behavior*

### Minor Child / Under 21 YO A Driver's license

The majority of driver's licenses and identification cards that you examine will be presented in a landscape or horizontal format; however, you may see a driver's license or identification card presented in a portrait or vertical format. Many states utilize the portrait or vertical format to quickly identify people under the age of 21. It is important to understand that these are legitimate. See Below:

Adult Driver License



Under 21 YO A Driver's License



The portrait format is also used on Identification Cards.

### Steps to Verify a Driver's License or Identification Card

**Step one** Feel the thickness and flexibility of your card.

Every card that you examine should have the same thickness and flexibility; however, there are two exceptions:

1. A card from a different state may have a slightly different thickness or flexibility or both.
2. From time to time your state may change the type of card they use. This is apparent when the design of your state ID card or driver's license will look different.

If you are used to seeing Driver's licenses or ID's from your state, and for the first time you see a new design and maybe a different thickness used by your state, disregard this step and go to step 2 through 7 until you get familiar with the new thickness.

**Step two** Look at the expiration date of the card.

If the expiration date has passed, it is no longer a legitimate form of identification.

**Step three** Look at the photograph – Check for the following:

1. Does the image depict the photo of the patient?
  - a. Don't hesitate to hold the card up compare the image to the person's face.
2. Look at the quality of the photo.

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- a. If the license is from the same state as yours, make sure the photo is of the same quality as yours.
3. Make sure the photo was not added or pasted onto the card. The card should be one solid piece.
4. Make sure there is nothing in the background of the photo like a Christmas tree, or mountains or anything else. The background should be one solid color.
5. Some states are using a 3-D effect on their photographs by actually raising the hairline of the person on the photograph.
6. You may find that a portion of the state seal or a portion of a signature may be covering a portion of the photograph. If this is the case in your state, all of the driver's licenses or identification cards should display the same as you can see on the example of this Nebraska driver's license.



**Step four** Look at the documentation regarding the height, weight, sex, date of birth, eye and hair color displayed on the card.

Some fake documents may indicate an extreme difference from reality. Your patient may be 5'2" and the driver's license indicates that they are 5'11".

Sometimes the date of birth is wrong.

You may find a female presenting a card that indicates that she is a male.

Other than the exceptions identified below, if the information contained on the card is obviously wrong, this would be evidence of a fake or counterfeit card.

There are three exceptions:

- 1) Hair color
  - a. If the hair color is obviously different than what is indicated on the card, ask the person what color their hair was at the time they obtained the card.
- 2) Weight
  - a. If the weight is obviously different than what is indicated on the card, ask the person if they have lost or gained weight.
- 3) Eye color
  - a. If the eye color is obviously different than what is indicated on the card, ask the person if they are wearing colored or tinted contact lenses.
    - i. If they answer yes, look at the person's eyes to see if you can see the edge of the contact lenses to verify.
    - ii. If you cannot, ask the person to remove one of their lenses.

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If you see a discrepancy and the person indicates that they have never dyed their hair, has not lost or gained weight or is not wearing contact lenses, this would be evidence of a fake or counterfeit card.

**Step five**      **Look at the typeset** of the documentation on the card. Instead of the documentation being in straight lines, with even rows, some of the writing (like the name and address) may slant upward, downward or appear wavy or smudged depending on the caliber of equipment used to make the fake document. If you notice that the documentation slants, appears to be wavy, appears unclear or the spacing between lines appears not to be equal, the card is likely counterfeit or has been tampered with.



**Step six**      **Turn the card over** and examine the back. Look to see if it happens to say something like “This is not intended to be a government document”.

A vendor can only legally sell the fake ID or driver's license as a curio so that wording must appear on the card at the point of sale.

The cheap \$50.00 cards will have this wording embossed on the card in a way that is difficult to take off, so you may see scratches on the card where someone attempted to scrape the wording off. The more expensive card will add this wording to the card using a substance that can easily be wiped off the card, so you may not be able to find any indication that the wording was ever on the card.

If you observe wording that indicates “this is not intended to be a government document” or you observe scrapes on the card that is evidence of someone attempted to remove information on the card, this would be evidence of a fake or counterfeit card.

**Step seven**      **Look for the security measures.**

### **Hologram**

A hologram is an image made into the card using a reflective substance that can be seen by holding the card at an angle so that the light can reflect the image.

Some holograms are latent (or not readily seen) but if you hold the card in a manner that allows you to reflect the light off of the card in different angles, you will be able to see the hologram.

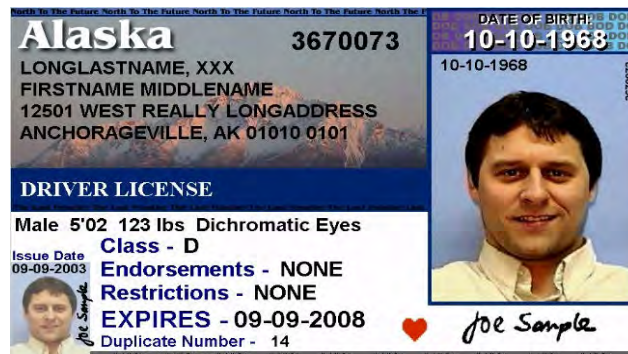


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Some holograms are obvious – like the hologram you see on most credit cards.

First, look for the obvious hologram. If you find one, examine it in a manner so the light will reflect off the card and you will either see the pattern change, you may see the pattern change colors or the color may become more intense.



Second, look for a latent hologram. Remember, a latent hologram is a hologram that is not readily seen. Take a look at the Wisconsin Driver's License. You'll notice that the State seal is not readily seen and is located half on the photo and half off the photo.



By shifting the card in the light, you'll either see the pattern change, you may see the pattern change colors or the color may become more intense.

Latent holograms can be difficult to locate. See example below.

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The use of an ultraviolet light (otherwise known as a black light) can significantly aid in locating the latent holograms.



Ultraviolet lights are inexpensive.

A small flashlight with an ultraviolet lens sells for as little as \$8.00.



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A small hand held florescent light sells for as little as \$8.00.



It is likely that your state uses hologram technology; however, they may only use one of the holograms described above. Use your driver's license or identification card as an example.

If you identify any of these types of holograms on your state driver's license or identification card, and you examine a driver's license or identification card from the same state, but you cannot locate the same type of hologram on the card in question, this would be evidence of a fake or counterfeit card.

Hologram technology is extremely expensive and difficult to duplicate. In the past it was very unlikely to see holograms duplicated on fake ID's, but recently, fake Driver's licenses from China have been showing up with holograms.

This makes it very important to carefully check all of the other issues on the driver's license that I have been talking about.

### Micro Writing

Micro writing is a security measure that is extremely difficult to reproduce and very unlikely to find on counterfeit or fake driver's licenses or identification cards.

Micro writing normally looks like a line or a circle displayed on the card.

For example, here's a Texas driver's license that display's micro writing.



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You may see what appears to be a line drawn around an image of the state flag. This is micro writing. In this situation, what appears to be a line is in-fact words that says "The Texas Flag" "The Texas Flag" "The Texas Flag" all the way around the flag.

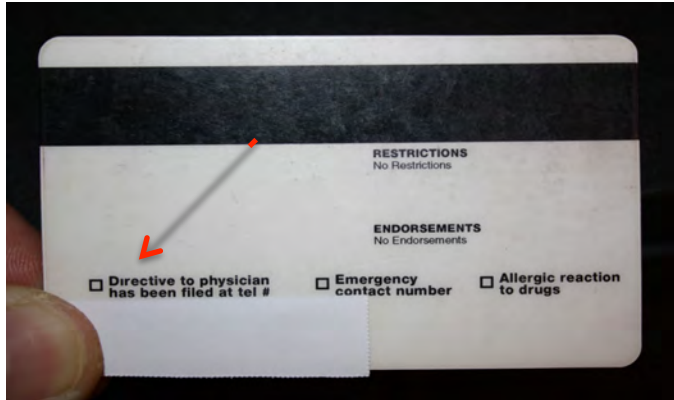
In order to actually see the micro writing, you will need to use a jeweler's loupe or a high powered magnifying glass.

You can find a jewelers loupe for less than \$5.00 or a 30 X folding Magnifying Glass for less that \$10.00.

### Intentionally Mislabeled Writing

Another security measure is “Intentionally Mislabeled Writing”.

To use Texas as an example again, if you look at an older Texas Driver's License, you will find the word “Directive” displayed on the back, bottom portion of the card.



If you look at the word “Directive”, you will see that the word is spelled with two “i’s”, the first “i” is not dotted but the second “i” is dotted. This is not a mistake. This is intentionally mislabeled writing.

Take just a moment to look at your own driver's license. If you see what looks like a mistake that I just mentioned, it is probably not a mistake at all. You should find that same mislabeling on every license of the same state.

### Ghost Images

Another security measure that has been used for some time now is ghost images.

A ghost image is nothing more than a copy or copies of the photograph.

Here you will see the Wyoming driver's license using two colored images, one standard photograph and one ghost image.



The ghost image always appears somewhat faded.



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Here's the Virginia driver's license. Virginia uses two images; however, Virginia uses black and white images. And again, the ghost image appears somewhat faded.



Here's a Wisconsin driver's license that uses three images. A standard driver's license photograph and two ghost images. One color and one black and white.

Remember, The ghost image will always be copied from the primary driver's license photograph.

If you are examining a driver's license from your state, and you see that the ghost images are different – Example: Let's say that your state uses one colored photograph and one colored ghost image, but you see a colored photograph and a black and white ghost image, this would indicate that the driver's license is fake.

### Micro Holes (Laser Perforation)

California and Texas are two states using this security measure.

It appears to be simple. On the California driver license there are micro holes punched through the driver's license and identification card in the design of a bear.

If you took a flashlight and placed it on the back of the license or ID card, you can see the light shine through the micro holes that make up an outline of a bear.



If your state uses this security measure, you can in-fact hold a light to the back of the card and you should see the light shine through, just be careful in judging one of these to be fake if the light does not shine through. The holes may be filled with dust or dirt. Be sure to wash it and then look for the light to shine through.

### List of Issues to Look For

Keep this list at your workstation.

1. Feel the thickness and flexibility of your card and compare it to the one you are examining.
2. Check the expiration date. If it is expired, it is no longer a valid means of Identification.
3. Examine the photograph.
  - a. Does the image depict the photo of the patient?
  - b. Look at the quality of the photo. Is it the same as yours?
  - c. Make sure the photo was not in any way added or pasted onto the card.
  - d. Make sure there is nothing in the background of the photo like a Christmas tree, or mountains or anything else. The background should be one solid color.
  - e. Is a state seal or signature covering a portion of the photo as it should?
4. Make sure the name and physical description matches the patient.
  - a. Look at:
    - i. Weight
    - ii. Hair
    - iii. Eye Color
    - iv. Height
    - v. Sex
    - vi. D.O.B.
5. Examine the typeset and spacing on the front of the card.
  - a. Is the type set all the same size?
  - b. Is the type set straight or wavy?
6. Examine the back of the card to make sure it does not say "This is not intended to be a government document".
  - a. Is there any scratches where the wording may have been scratched off?
7. Look for the security measures.
  - a. Holograms or ink that looks like holograms?
  - b. Are holograms reflecting or responding to UV light, as they should?
  - c. Any Micro Writing if applicable?
  - d. Any Intentionally Mislabeled Writing if applicable?
  - e. Are ghost images correct if applicable?

If you find a discrepancy with any of these seven steps, this would indicate that you are examining a counterfeit or fake identification card.