

## Training Module:

### Verifying Authenticity of Photo Identifications



# Verifying Authenticity of Photo Identifications & Determining if an ID is FAKE

There are several ways in which verification of authenticity of a photo ID can be made. The following are what you should check for:

- Compare the photograph on the ID with the person standing in front of you and question discrepancies (the cardholder counts on the fact that a store clerk will be too busy to inspect the ID closely).
- Review and compare other physical descriptors like height and weight.
- Look for signs of duplicate cards, such as “DUPL” stamp.
- Watch for expired cards.
- Ask questions!
  - Ask the cardholder to verify personal data on the card.
  - Obtain a signature and compare it to the one on the card.
  - Ask the cardholder what their middle initial stands for.
- Or....purposely mispronounce their name or misstate their middle initial to see if the cardholder instinctively gives the correct information.
- Look for signs of deceit.
- Does the cardholder avoid eye contact, exhibit unusual hesitation when answering, behave nervously, attempt to intimidate, or do their eyes track upwards (as if to recall or make something up)?



The “New” Military ID-  
new form and appearance

\*Reference the *Age Verification Techniques* resource for more details.

# How to Identify if A Photo Identification has been Altered

Nevada made it easier to simply determine if an individual is under the age of 21:

There are several signs you can check for which can determine if a photo ID has been altered. The following are some signs to check for:

- Any sign of tampering
- Peeling lamination
- Smudged print
- Differences in font on the date of birth or expiration date

The front of their ID or Driver's License has vertical printing, and horizontal printing on the back

Driver licenses and IDs for individuals over the age of 21 follow the traditional horizontal format.

Additionally, the DMV imprints an age restriction notice in RED ink on those for individuals under the age of 21 or under the age of 18. For example, the card will feature a red banner with the words:

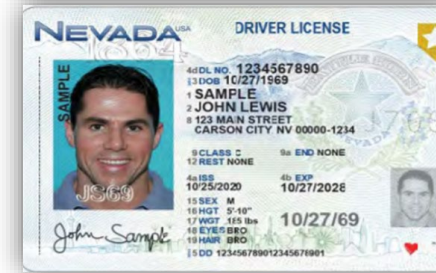
**UNDER 21 UNTIL 00-00-0000** or  
**UNDER 18 UNTIL 00-00-0000**



Vertical Frontside- under age 21



Horizontal Backside- all IDs



Horizontal Frontside- 21+

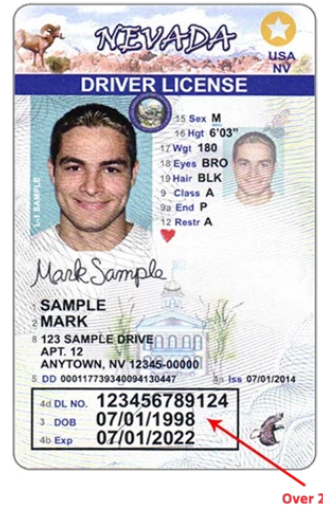


Photo altering

# Photo IDs that are **FAKE**

The best way to spot fakes is to do a visual and physical examination of the ID in question, and to be familiar with what a real ID in your community looks like.

- Often, fake IDs appear to be issued by a state other than where the ID will be used, hoping that the person checking the ID is unfamiliar with out-of-state IDs.
- Use a feel test. Genuine IDs are not layered and are made of durable plastic. As a result, genuine IDs do not unravel or buckle. Fake IDs are often made with inferior products and layered. Fake IDs buckle or begin to peel apart when manipulated. Bending the edge or attempting to peel apart the ID can improve the chances of identifying a fake ID.



- Compare security features. Holograms should flash in and out on a genuine ID. Look out for holograms that remain consistently illuminated, regardless of how much light is reflected on the card. This will indicate a fake ID.
- Inspect both the front and back of the ID. Because often the maker of the fake ID does not put as much effort into the back, the back should be inspected as carefully as the front.
- If possible, swipe the magnetic strip. If the ID is genuine, the magnetic strip, once swiped, should reveal information regarding the presenter's age, date of birth, etc.
- Most fake IDs, even high-quality fake IDs, will fail to recognize the ID or return a message that the ID cannot be verified when the magnetic strip is swiped.

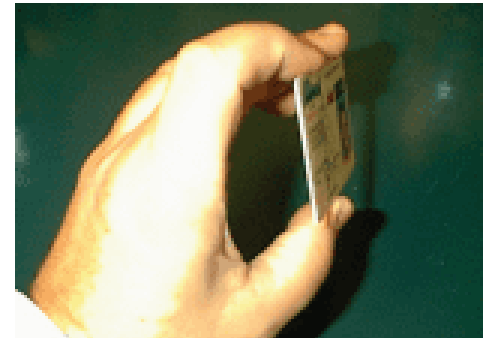
# Altered Fake IDs

Modern IDs are much harder to alter than in the past. For example, given the advancement of ID printing methods and the use of specialized plastic material, altering an ID's photo is extremely difficult as is rarely seen on newer forms of ID. The current trend in ID altering is to change the date of birth, "Under 18 Until," or "Under 21 Until" dates. The most common technique to alter IDs is to use clear fingernail polish or superglue and write or print new dates on top of the polish or glue. To identify altered IDs, look for the following:

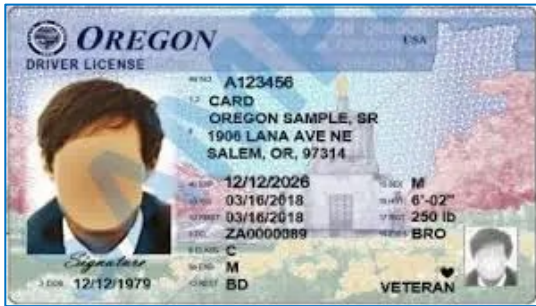
- Check for small raised spots or small shiny spots over the date of birth or "Under Until" dates.
- Check for changes in font or coloration
- Different types of fonts on the card
- Smudging or bleeding of colors on the card
- Raised spots or ridges on the cards

# Physical Inspection of an ID

- Check the card's rigidity. A fake ID will often have different weight and/or thickness of a real ID. Gently squeeze the ID to determine if the card feels right.
- Check the card's edges. Almost all IDs have rounded edges around the entire ID. If the edges, feel square it is possible the card has a false front.
- Check and feel the front and back of the ID. Feel for bumps, ridges and irregularities.
- Check the IDs corners. A real IDs corners cannot be split or peeled back. If you can peel back or split the IDs corners with your nail, it is likely a fake ID.
- Visual inspection of the ID.
- Do a general visual examination of the overall appearance, fonts and coloration patterns, and look for any known security features that should be present on valid IDs.
- Don't forget to examine the back of the ID. Creators of fake IDs take great care to replicate the front of the ID but put less effort into the back.



# Photo Identifications of Nevada's Bordering States



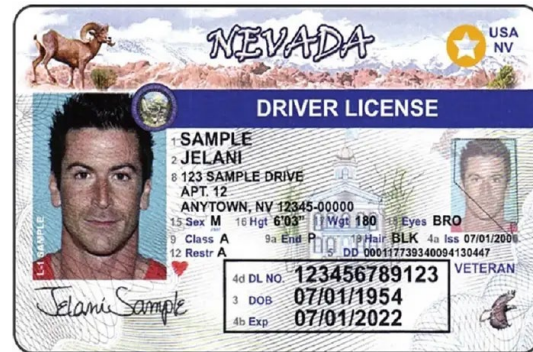
Oregon's licenses feature the state's capitol building, which is in the city of Salem. The license has 1 alpha and 6 or 7 numbers.



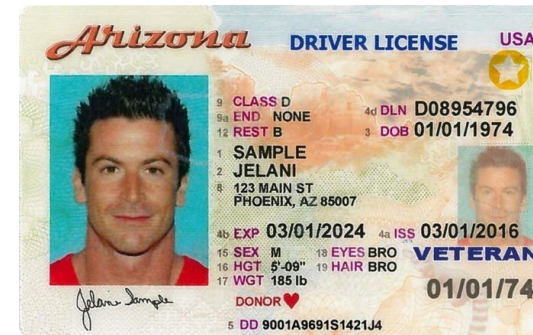
Utah's capitol building in Salt Lake City is depicted in the background of its licenses. The license has 4-10 numbers



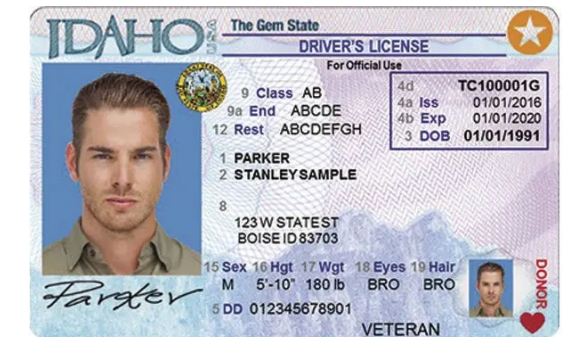
California's driver's license has many references to iconic state symbols, like the California gold rush, the California grizzly bear, and the state flower, the California poppy. The license has 1 alpha and 7 numbers.



On Nevada driver's license, you can see the state capitol building and the state's animal: the desert bighorn sheep. The license has 12 numbers



Arizona's driver's license shows a desert landscape in the background — the state has four different deserts. The license has one alpha and 8 numbers.



Idaho is known as the Gem State because "72 different precious and semi-precious gemstones have been found there." The license has 3 alpha and 6 numbers.

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# Nevada Responsible Tobacco Retailer



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Tobacco Control Program  
Division of Public and Behavioral Health

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