

# HOW TO SPOT A FAKE ID

Fake IDs are easier to obtain than ever. Fake ID producers across the world use sophisticated graphics software, printing presses, and specialized materials to create near-exact replicas of a real ID. These print shops have honed their craft so well that the unsuspecting eye can't differentiate between a fake ID and the real thing.

With the increase in fraud and other scams, spot checking an ID has become an important part of the real estate sale and purchase process. Confirmation of authenticity often requires careful scrutiny of the driver's license or ID card. Assuming the fake ID has flaws (is not perfect), use the information included in this flyer that highlights Texas ID security features in place to assist with ID verification.

## ? WHY REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS SHOULD VERIFY A CUSTOMERS' ID:

Large amounts of money exchanges hands in real estate transactions. The first step to preventing fraud is YOU! Most cases of the seller fraud start with a listing agent accepting a fraudulent listing. Asking for an ID up front can really help you make sure you're working with the right person before wasting your time.

## **T** NOTE THE TITLE: "DRIVER'S LICENSE" VS. "DRIVER LICENSE"

Some fake licenses are titled "Driver's License" at the top. A valid license will read "Driver License"



## WATCH FOR MISPELLINGS AND GRAMMAR

Mistakes that can appear in the city or state. Also be on the lookout for blurred text.

## OBSERVE THE PHOTO



1. Does the photo actually look like the person you are talking to?
2. Do the signatures of the director at the top or cardholder at the bottom overlap the photo or is the photo overlapping the signatures?
3. If the person in the photo is wearing glasses, the ID is fake. TXDOT makes you remove your glasses before taking your picture.
4. Compare the height of the cardholder to the stated height on the ID.
5. Ghost Photo in the lower right corner: This secondary image of cardholder has a guilloche pattern overlapping the photo and a repeat of the date of birth also overlapping the photo.

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## CHECK OUT THAT BACKSIDE



Fake ID makers often do not put as much work into making the back side look as realistic as the front. The following content should be easily seen:

1. 1D bar code, which looks like a bar code.
2. Magnetic strip on the back, which is a long solid strip.
3. 2D bar code, which looks like a rectangular QR code.
4. DOB: printed vertically

## LOOK FOR LAYERS OR LAMINATE PEELING



Run your fingers across the edge and see if there are any parts that are peeling back. Texas Driver's licenses are made from a polycarbonate resistant to separating or peeling. There should not be any "layers". There should be no bumpy surfaces or sticky glue residue.

## OBSERVE THE PRESENCE OF RAISED SURFACES



1. Run your fingers across the ID. Lettering is done with a laser engraving (also called Tactile Engraving). The Driver's License number and the First and Last Names are raised more than the other lettering.
2. The Texas seal in the center of the license will have a slight raised feel and will only be visible under a strong light and tilting the license.
3. The hologram in the lower right corner will have a slight raised feel to it.

## GAZE AT THE STARS



The Texas REAL ID Act compliant-card is marked with a circle with an inset star located in the upper right corner of the card.

## STUDY FOR ULTRAVIOLET IMAGERY



Real IDs have ultraviolet ink that you can see by holding the license at an angle under a light.

1. The letters "T", "E", "X" are wrapped around the Star. "E" and "X" will light up under ultraviolet light as well as some, but not all of the random "leaf" looking marks.
2. There is a type of mark in the lower left corner of the back side of a valid driver's license that only shows up under an ultraviolet light.

UV Light pens are available online for \$5.00 or less.

## VERIFY DATA: ASK QUESTIONS!



Ask the cardholder to verify personal data on the card. Example: Ask the cardholder what their middle initial stands for.



## CHECK THE EXPIRATION DATE

Is the Driver's License expired?



## EXAMINE THE HOLOGRAM

The hologram in the lower right corner on the front of the Driver's License should have a small duplicate of the photo and the date of birth. As you tilt the card, it will show one or the other.