



Valid and Fake Identification eBook

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Recognizing Real Identifications

You must first understand real Identifications (or IDs) so you can identify fake IDs better. There are numerous legal jurisdictions in every country and governments will issue different types of IDs (ex. driver licenses, military identification, passports, etc.). And at any given time, each jurisdiction can have a number of different valid versions of IDs in circulation, this complicates matters even more for those who check IDs since new versions are added and current versions are updated periodically - resulting in numerous versions of currently valid IDs in each government jurisdiction.

The government creates the features used for the design of IDs to improve the security of the cards. There are also different government initiatives for interoperability among IDs that are issued to focus on increasingly complex security features and make it more difficult to counterfeit IDs.

If you have any doubts about an ID, you have the right to, and should, refuse service. You may refuse service to anyone, but you cannot discriminate as to race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, disability, marital status, or national origin. Anyone underage is not protected by age discrimination laws and to refuse service, simply say: “I could lose my job if I

accepted this ID” or “I’d be happy to serve you something else, but I can’t sell you cannabis.”

Bonafide Identification

Bonafide, which means legally acceptable, is an ID that contains these six items:

1. Government Agency Issued
2. Person’s Name
3. Date of Birth
4. Photograph
5. Physical Description (ex. height, weight, hair, and eye color)
6. Currently Valid (not expired)

Legal Defense

You will have a legal defense if:

1. You relied on a bona fide ID
2. You showed good faith in checking the ID

To illustrate:

- **Bona Fide ID:** A valid driver license or government-issued ID
- **Good Faith Effort:** You make a reasonable inspection (ID looks real, no obvious alterations, photo, and description reasonably match person, and customer reasonably looks legally old enough).

- **Legal Defense:** You are able to defend yourself in court.

Identifying Security Features

All government-issued IDs contain different kinds of security features, such as:

- **Overt Features:** Can be seen with the eyes and felt with the hands.
- **Covert Features:** This can be seen with the use of simple tools, such as magnifiers, flashlights, and UV lights.
- **Forensic Features:** Are revealed with special high-tech tools typically used by law enforcement and government agencies given their expense.

Some of the security features on government-issued IDs that are considered the most difficult to counterfeit are visual and tactile features meant for inspection by sight and touch. The problem is that many individuals don't know what security features to look for and feel on IDs. If anyone checking IDs fails to use visual perception and manual dexterity to confirm these features, this puts the cannabis business at risk and the expenditure by governments is squandered.

Acceptable Identification Forms

If the identification presented contains a picture and Date-of-Birth (DOB), including any valid and verified digital identification, the kind and type of identification deemed adequate will be the following:

1. An operator's, chauffeur's, or similar type driver's license, including a temporary license issued by any state within the United States, District of Columbia, or any United States territory.
2. An identification card, including a temporary identification card, issued by any state within the United States, District of Columbia, or any United States territory,



for the purpose of proof of age.

3. A United States military identification card or any other identification card issued by the United States government including but are not limited to a permanent resident card, alien registration card, or consular card.
4. A passport or passport identification card.
5. An enrollment card issued by the governing authority of a federally recognized Indian tribe if the enrollment card incorporates proof of age requirements.

Refuse the transfer of cannabis if a person produces identification that is invalid or expired. You must physically view and inspect the patient or caregiver's registry card, including any valid and verified digital registry card, and proof of identification to confirm the information contained on the documents and to judge the authenticity of the documents presented.



Checking Identification Solutions

There are currently two (2) main solutions for anyone when it comes to checking Identifications (or IDs):

- Training and Reference Materials
- Identification Scanners

Neither is fully adequate for catching all the sophisticated fake IDs currently on the market. Expectations for the ID checking process exceed someone's capabilities because the solutions available do not always contain the information or technology needed to do the job. Governments mandate ID checking often fall short of providing the most up-to-date content required to check IDs and to spot fakes, given the speed at which fakes are flooding the market.

Properly and thoroughly checking IDs is effective in preventing the use of fake IDs to access cannabis. Mandating detailed ID checking training will create a new industry standard that serves to minimize and mitigate risks. Businesses possess the greatest incentive to train people checking IDs since they risk losing their livelihood - their cannabis license.

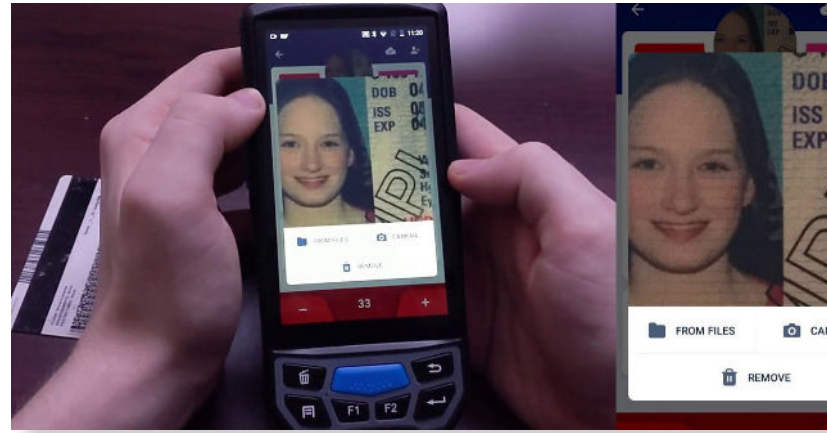
As a result of the current inadequacy of resources for ID checking training, many people checking IDs simply glance at an ID

for a birthdate or a hologram that "looks" real, whatever that may mean in their limited discretion. Similarly, many people checking IDs slide it through a scanner or bypass the point-of-sale system by inputting a faux birthdate, all without even looking at the ID. This negligent behavior is unacceptable, yet it is a common reality because people checking IDs don't know what to look for on real or fake IDs. They've never been trained, they have no practical standards to follow, and they are navigating multiple pressures and competing demands.

For example, people checking IDs, often workers, are pressured by management to move customers through check-out lines quickly to provide "better" customer service so the company can gain a competitive advantage over other cannabis retailers. This does not always allow adequate time to properly and thoroughly check someone's ID. With proper training and support to take the time to execute that training, companies can "upskill" frontline staff to better understand their critical role as customer service representatives and people checking IDs in protecting their community, their company - including the company's cannabis license - and themselves.

Licensing regulations are valuable and effective enforcement tools, and they should include penalties for people checking IDs who do not properly or thoroughly check ID. However, it is unfair to punish people checking IDs who make reasonable efforts to check ID to control the sale of cannabis if they have had little or no proper training, especially where none is available. Without proper training resources, we're punishing the wrong people.

Many current laws carry stiffer penalties for people checking IDs than fake ID users. If greater fines and penalties are imposed on the person using the fake ID, multiple issues will be resolved: potential users will be sufficiently deterred; the market demand will decrease thereby halting the production of (at least some) fake IDs, and people checking IDs will have diminished exposure and risk.





Identification Training and Reference Materials

The training for checking Identifications (or IDs) typically discuss obvious steps such as confirming the birthdate and expiration date, but when it comes to the large number of different ID types issued by the government and their security features, it can be difficult to determine valid ID. For example, the reference materials might include only one or two images of holograms from a couple of government jurisdictions, and that is not enough information to distinguish real from fake holograms.

ID checking reference materials are typically used in the cannabis industry, they are published containing images of IDs together for each type of government ID issued with concise sentences describing a few security features. The government-mandated ID checking in the cannabis industry often falls short of providing the most up-to-date reference materials required to check IDs and to spot fakes, given the speed at which fakes are flooding the market.

The reference materials are considered a resource for checking IDs, but unfortunately most suffer from problems that can render them ineffectual. Though the reference materials are updated regularly, the information can become outdated before the

next publication. Also, the reference materials do not always cover all current versions of IDs. Consequently, some reference materials lack the depth and detail that enable someone to differentiate between a real ID and a fake ID.

ID checking reference materials typically used in the cannabis industry are reference materials organized by a government or jurisdiction that contain photos of a few IDs together with concise sentences describing a few security features. The reference materials are considered a resource for checking IDs, but unfortunately most suffer from problems that can render them ineffectual. Though the reference materials are updated regularly, the information can become outdated before the next publication. Also, the reference materials do not always cover all current versions of IDs.

Consequently, some reference materials lack the depth and detail that enable people checking IDs to differentiate between a real ID and a fake ID. Many times, training is not frequent enough to keep up with changes to government-issued IDs, changes in technology, and changes in the level of sophistication of fake IDs. People checking IDs need far more updated training with far more depth and detail.

Common Verification Mistakes

The biggest mistakes people make when checking IDs are:

The is a hologram on the ID looks real. It is super easy to create holograms with a cheap printer and it is much harder to recreate a real barcode or magnetic stripe.

Not questioning the person about the information on their ID (ex. address, how to spell one's street, etc.).

Not having a legal record of checking the ID. Manually checking an ID gives you no legal record of checking one's ID. Scanning an ID or a video recording from security cameras gives you that legal record.

Not checking everyone's ID. Why would you not check everyone's ID? What is the harm? Being proactive is much better than being reactive.





Identification Scanners

In our drive to be more automated and more high-tech, scanners are sometimes the sole method used to check Identification (or ID), replacing people in crucial gatekeeping positions. By using current scanners to check IDs we are often mistakenly relying on machines to confirm age and identity. Human visual perception and manual dexterity are crucial to the ID checking process to confirm age and prevent underage access to cannabis.

Scanners can create a false sense of security for the person scanning the ID and for the ID holder. The person scanning the ID may believe that the machine can always catch a fake ID. Personal data, also known as personal information or Personally Identifiable Information (or PII) is any information relating to an identifiable person. The ID holder may believe that their PII, including name, address, signature, the government ID number, photo, biometric data, and more, is safe when in many cases it is not. Also, some people and companies may not fully understand their exposure to liability regarding strict privacy laws when swiping, viewing, capturing, and securing PII.

To understand why scanners do not always catch fake IDs, it's important to understand the technology. ID scanners come in two

forms: machines and apps. Machines include dedicated, purpose-built devices such as handheld devices or desktop models and “Seed-to-Sales” tracking systems with built-in or add-on ID scanners. Machines require both hardware and software. Scanning apps are downloaded onto devices such as smartphones. Both have limitations based upon what they can “see” or “read” on IDs and whether they can actually “verify” the data or “authenticate” the ID.



Identification Standard Operating Procedure

1. Examine Identification

Know what to look for since each issued Identification (or ID) is somewhat different depending on your jurisdiction. Accordingly, you should learn the security features used on cards in your region and in the surrounding parts. Fortunately, there is plenty of information available, using reference materials that have been published on authenticating their IDs. Check with your local government and there may also be an app you can download to a smart device that will contain IDs for all government-issued ID currently in use.

2. Compare Identification

Compare the ID to a valid one so if you don't have ID reference materials, you can compare the ID to the one you know is valid - maybe even your own. Check how similar they are. Compare whether the thickness, size, coloring, lettering, and corners are the same. A fake ID may be thinner than a legitimate one since counterfeiters use different paper or laminate than legitimate IDs.

3. Use Magnifying Glass

Examine the micro-print with a magnifying glass. Almost all IDs use micro-print as a security feature. It looks like a straight line, but

when magnified you can see the words clearly. Use a magnifying glass to check whether the ID has a micro-print, and it will be located in different positions, depending on which ID you are looking at.

4. Use Ultraviolet Light

Hold the card under ultraviolet (or UV) light, depending on the government that issued the ID, certain security features will show up under UV light. For example, on some IDs, you can see a second, lighter image of the cardholder only under UV light.

5. Physically Inspect Identification

Use your hands to see if the card feels normal. Your sense of touch can pick up on many signs of fraud. For example, feel the edges of the ID, which should be smooth and not peeling. Also, the card shouldn't be flimsy and bend easily. Run a thumb over the picture and check its thickness, you'll find on some fake IDs, a picture is pasted over the original one, so the ID is especially thick there. Some information may also be tactile or perceived by touch. On different government-issued IDs, for example, the cardholder's signature is now printed using raised lettering so you can run your thumb across it and feel the lettering.

6. Scan Barcode

Scan the barcode using a scanner if it is an option. The barcode contains information that should match the information on the front of the card. Most forgers cannot encode the information because it is too expensive. Scan the barcode and see if any information has been encoded and whether it matches the information on the front. There are apps you can use and can be downloaded onto your smart devices.

7. Tilt Card

Look at it from different angles. Some cards have security features that are only visible from certain angles. For example, you can check for an image overlay by tilting the card. The card might also have the government issuer name that is visible when you tilt the card toward the light. For example, on some government-issued IDs, the name shows up in diagonal across the front of the card.

8. Check Misspellings

Make sure everything is spelled correctly so search for misspellings on the ID. You can spot a forgery if the ID contains a misspelling, such as using the wrong abbreviation and any ID with a misspelling is not legitimate.

9. Study Cardholder

Look for signs of anxiety and be suspicious if the cardholder avoids eye contact, is shaking, or otherwise looks nervous. This may be the first time they've tried to use a fake ID and could fear getting caught. Other signs of lying include pursing their lips or touching their face as they talk so if the person is right-handed, then they will usually look to the right when they tell a lie.

10. Reviewing Physical Description

Compare the physical description to the cardholder since government-issued IDs and others should include a physical description that includes height, age, eye color, and weight. Check that the person handing over



the ID matches the description, but it can be difficult to judge height so compare the person to your own height.

11. Compare Picture

Compare the picture to the person and analyze whether the person looks remotely like the person handing you the ID. Although the picture may be a few years old, the person should look generally the same so instead of focusing on someone's hairstyle, look at those features that don't change, like their: nose, ears, eyes, and chin.

12. Comparing Signatures

If the cardholder is signing for something, compare the signatures and if they don't match, then the ID is probably fake. You might suspect someone buying with a fake ID, so in that situation, ask them for their signature and then compare it. Sometimes, people will accidentally sign their real names, so this is a good test.

Summary

A societal shift is needed to stop underage cannabis consumption and fake IDs. Successful societal shifts make policy stick, increased penalties had an impact on underage consumption, increased penalties can have an impact on the use of fake IDs. The question is, though, when will we get to that point with fake IDs? When will consequences and societal costs become so severe that

we focus more on prevention than reaction? Arguably, given the proliferation of fake IDs, current financial and legal penalties are not severe enough and current solutions are not effective enough.





Fake Identification

Fake Identifications (or IDs) poses serious problems to the individuals and businesses who sell cannabis, and to communities and society as a whole. Fake IDs are easy to buy and easy to create, and the fake IDs flooding the market today are so sophisticated that they are fooling high tech scanners. Consequently, it is harder to control access to cannabis because the challenges of identification and age confirmation have become increasingly difficult.

The solutions for checking fake IDs are:

- Detailed training for the individuals who will be checking ID
- Reference materials that contain photos of IDs and security features
- Using scanners to check IDs to confirm someone's age and identity

The consequences of underage cannabis consumption are surprising in their range and magnitude, affecting not only those underage, but families, businesses, and society. A fake ID can be a very heavy pebble dropped into society's pond, causing serious and broad economic and social costs. Just one use of one fake ID can result in life-altering consequences for many people.

In the cannabis industry, fake IDs have caused numerous suspensions and revocations of

cannabis business licenses shuttering doors of long-time and newly opened establishments alike. Everyone directly and indirectly involved with these shuttered businesses is affected, including owners, investors, managers, employees, suppliers, vendors, delivery companies, and the list goes on. Fake IDs have also caused untold expense and heartache for society in general.

As it relates to the sale of cannabis, fake IDs can carry severe financial consequences, we do not know exactly how much of those costs are directly or indirectly caused by the use of fake IDs for underage cannabis consumption. We do know that many of the financial consequences are borne by public sources and governments, burdening already stressed budgets. Considering the involvement of all the government agencies in the regulation and enforcement of cannabis laws, the burden on government resources is untold.

Many use fake IDs to access cannabis and retailers face a conflict of interest in profiting from significant sales versus enforcing the law, and some make sales without checking ID or by accepting a fake ID out of sheer economic need. Impressionable teens are regularly exposed to the cannabis industry and an onslaught of cannabis culture in songs, movies,

websites, and social media.

Fake IDs come in many forms, including borrowed and stolen real IDs, newly created fake IDs, and altered or forged real IDs. Even if the ID is real, if it does not belong to the person presenting it, if the machine-readable data on that ID is incorrect, or if it has been altered, it's a fake ID.





Fraudulently Using Identification

Borrowed and stolen Identifications (or IDs) are reportedly among the most common fake IDs used. Scanners won't catch this kind of fake, because it's a real government-issued ID and this is one reason training is critical to the ID checking process. Anyone checking IDs can not only see and feel security features, but they can observe and assess behavioral nuances often associated with the use of a fake ID. They also have the innate ability to conduct some level of facial recognition to confirm identity, matching the person presenting the ID to the photo on the ID.

Altering Real Identifications

Another form of a fake ID is a real ID that has been altered. The most common alterations include editing barcodes and magnetic stripes on the back of an ID and lifting or removing laminates to replace or add photos, holograms, artwork, data, and more.

Current IDs are typically made of simple materials - plastic and metal - both easy to alter. ID card bases, including those with a magnetic stripe on the reverse, if desired, are available online in bulk. In fact, everything needed to make a fake ID is commercially available, as are detailed instructions and videos online for altering existing IDs and creating new IDs.

ID scanners won't always catch these forged security features, but a trained eye and hand can catch a fake if the individual checking IDs knows what to feel and see. That is the key phrase: if they know, but many times the current training for checking ID is lacking in-depth and detail.

Purchased Fake IDs

Fake IDs are increasingly easy to buy since they are easily bought from local operations or "novelty" ID shops in certain areas of town. They are also easily bought online from international and domestic fake ID operations without a trace of the transaction or payment. Access to fake ID sites can be done anonymously and purchases are made using untraceable cryptocurrency such as Bitcoin. Illegal operations flood markets with fake IDs and that poses serious threats to companies and people who check ID to control access to cannabis.

Selling fake IDs is lucrative for criminals and they compete for business, bragging about producing the perfect counterfeit hologram or producing IDs that easily pass government and law enforcement scanners. Manufacturers even have online consumer ratings. People who forge, sell, and use fake IDs have seemingly no concern for those who

may suffer the life-altering consequences of their actions.

Online searches for terms like “fake ID” result in pages of countless manufacturers. Law enforcement acknowledges that catching fake ID manufacturers, and especially those outside their jurisdiction, is like a game of “whack-a-mole,” because when one disappears, another pops up. Some operate under multiple names. When law enforcement shuts them down under one name, they seamlessly continue operations under another. The reality is that bad guys are evading the good guys.

If there is little or no jurisdiction over the international operations and if it’s too hard to stop offshore production, the answer may lie in focusing on halting the demand. If the penalties for forging, sale, and use of fake IDs are stiff enough to override the benefit, underaged teens will reconsider and the demand will be stemmed accordingly. Stopping the demand for fake IDs carries the added benefit of protecting teens. To obtain a fake ID some teens naively give up their Personally Identifiable Information (or PII), which can subsequently be used for criminal activity, including identity theft.

Regulating All Parties

The industry has a perpetual problem: a non-stop flow of teenagers, a non-stop flow of cannabis, and the non-stop desire of those teenagers to get a hold of cannabis. The answer to this problem lies in the strength and regular enforcement of underage cannabis laws, including those related to the use of fake IDs.

Changes in retail are bringing about increasingly creative and convenient ways to shop, including self-checkout, cashier-less stores or automated-dispensing machines, online ordering, and nearly instant



delivery. With progress comes unintended consequences, including easier access to cannabis. Regulations need to address all parties



“U-CARD” Fake Identification Aid

As forms of Identification (or ID) are becoming ever easier to forge, a fake ID is growing more common and more “real” or accurate to a legally issued ID. If you’re in a position where you must verify someone’s age or identity, you must know how to detect fake IDs to determine valid IDs.

Here are some tips and techniques for checking ID. Remember, the customer must present ID to verify age. They must prove they are of legal age or have the right to access in case of wanting to obtain cannabis and you can always ask for a secondary ID if you are unsure.

You should examine the card carefully, identifying relevant safety features, before studying the cardholder. Think of the term “U-CARD” as a memory aid for the following procedure which can be used with most IDs:

Unaltered

- Always have the customer remove the ID from his or her wallet and hold the ID with your index finger on the top edge and your thumb on the bottom edge. This prevents any of the information from being covered up.
- Use the fingers of your other hand to check for any raised edges around the photograph, bumpy surfaces by the picture, irregular

lamination, obvious cuts or slashes, the thickness and quality of the ID, and more.

- Turn the ID 90 degrees to look for numbers and letters that are out of line with the rest of the print.

Current

- Check the expiration date first. Expired ID is not valid, and you cannot accept it as legal proof of age even if it looks like the person. If the ID is expired, you can stop right there. Return the ID and refuse service.

Age

- Check the date of birth; it must show the person is old enough to purchase cannabis so look for any alterations of the date of birth.

Readable

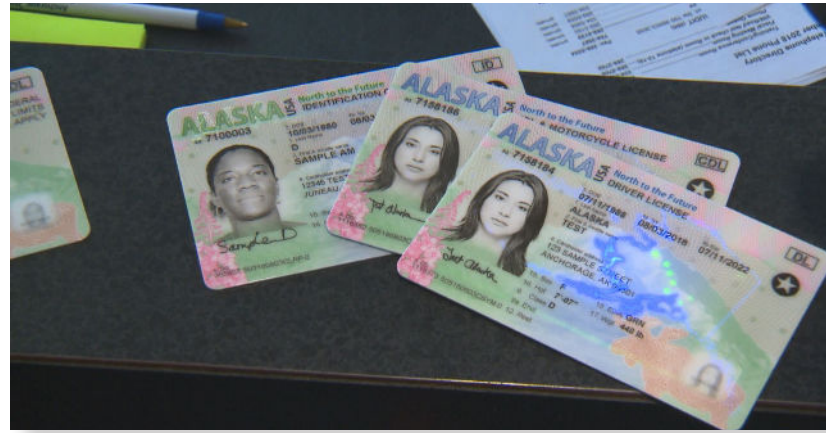
- Be sure you can read and understand the ID. If you cannot read an ID in a foreign language or the ID is worn or damaged so that parts are unreadable, do not accept it.

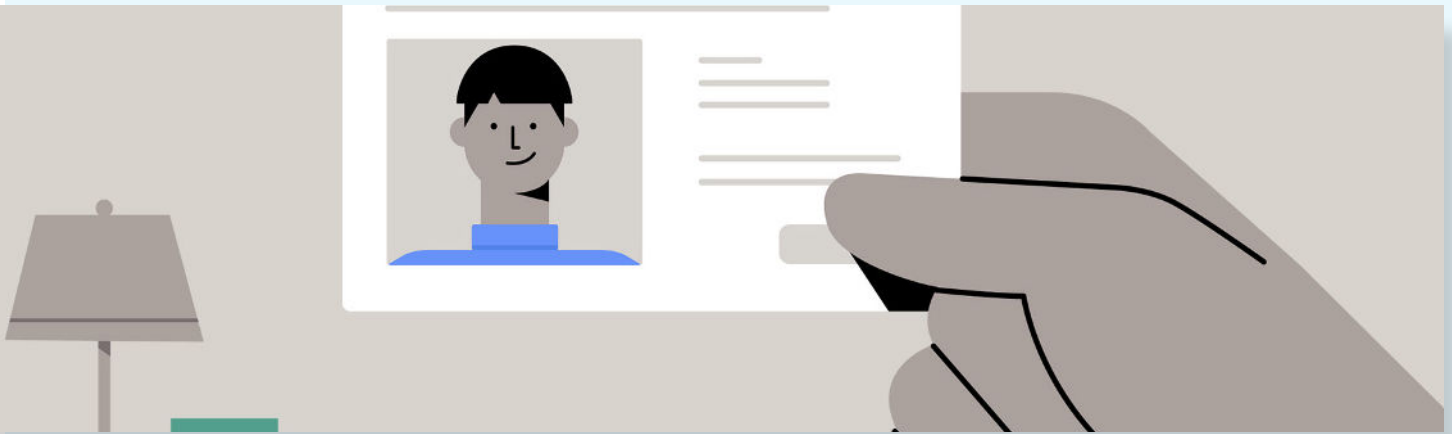
Description

- People can lose or gain weight and their hair and eye color (with contact lenses) may change, but the height should be consistent with the information on the ID. Look closely at the distance between the person’s eyes; this usually doesn’t change even if the

person's weight or hairstyle did.

- Refuse to sell if the photo or description does not match the person presenting the ID, even if they say they've changed their hairstyle, lost weight, etc.





Additional Verification Tips

Cannabis businesses can only sell cannabis to legal-age consumers, so those businesses and their employees are vital in preventing minors from accessing cannabis products. Even in other cannabis businesses, however, there may be reasons to know how to check Identifications (or IDs); for example, your employer may offer tours of the facilities, and you need to ensure that no one underage enters the premises.

- With any system of checking fake ID, you can ask the customer questions, such as:
- What is your address?
- What is your zip code?
- What is your middle name?
- What is your date of birth?
- How old are you now?
- What is your astrological sign?
- What year did you graduate from high school or college?
- Are you an anatomical donor?

You don't need to know the answers to all the questions but observe the way the customer responds. Are they confident, hesitant, nervous, taking too much time to respond? This will give you clues to whether they are lying or not. Remember, if you have any doubt that a piece of ID is valid, do not accept it and do not sell cannabis to that person.

Additional Tips

Have a flashlight handy and hold it behind the ID to look for cuts, punch outs, or pinholes. Ask for a second piece of ID if you have any doubts about the first. People with false ID rarely carry backup ID.

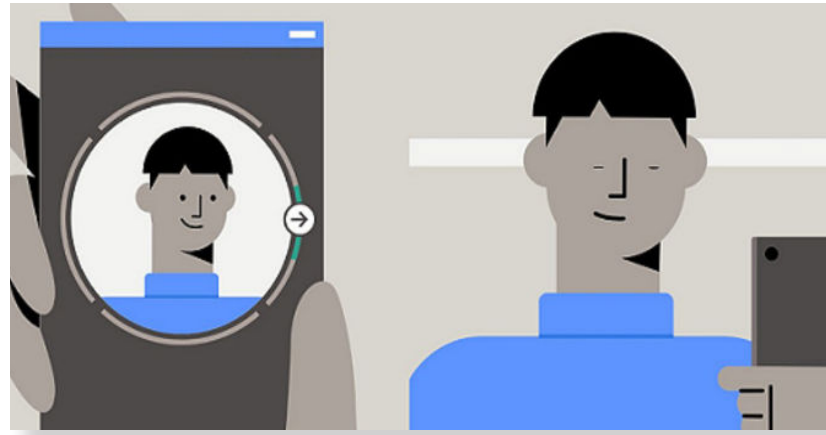
1. Look, don't just glance at ID.
2. Always have the customer remove the ID from their wallet.
3. Feel the card for:
 - Raised Edges
 - Bumpy Surfaces
 - Irregular Lamination
 - Cuts, Slits, or Pin Holes
 - Peeling Lamination or Uneven Corners
 - Thickness and Quality

Look carefully at the most commonly altered areas:

- Expiration Date
- Birth Date
- "Minor Until" Date
- Review Photo

Remember, government law requires that you check ID before making a sale of any cannabis item to any consumer. You are responsible for accurately checking ID to keep from selling or

making cannabis available to persons under the required years of age. If you have any doubt about a person's age or whether their proof of ID is valid, do not sell cannabis to that person or allow them entry into the licensed business.





Confiscating Fraudulent Identification

When in doubt, remember that a licensed cannabis business should refuse to sell any cannabis to anyone who does not produce a form of valid Identification (or ID) showing that person is of age or older. You do not have a legal duty to confiscate ID you believe is false, and most of the time it is not recommended to do it. You can always ask for a secondary ID if you are unsure. Remember, if you have any doubt that a piece of ID is valid, do not accept it and do not sell cannabis to that person.

Things to consider before you confiscate a fraudulent ID:

- Any form of ID - real or not - is personal property.
- Typically, only law enforcement officers will detain persons (or seize property) to determine if they are of age.
- If you believe a fraudulent ID was presented, you can record the ID on a surveillance system camera and tell the person you are calling police to verify the ID. If the person flees or abandons the ID, you must turn it over to a law enforcement officer.
- It is never worth physical injury to

hold onto a fraudulent ID card, so give it back if the person becomes confrontational!

If you decide to confiscate a fraudulent ID, turn it over to your local law enforcement within seventy-two (72) hours. Include your name and address of your business, and the date, time, and reason the ID was taken. For example, the picture on the ID did not match the person presenting it, the ID is torn, or the person could not accurately repeat information on the ID such as birthdate, address, etc. These are some tips and techniques for checking ID. Remember, it is the customer's obligation to present ID which verifies their age: they must prove they are of legal age or older.