

HOW TO EVALUATE IDENTIFICATION

Following are several tips for evaluating a license or other identification card.

1. Check the photo

- Check that the photo and the guest or buyer are the same person.
- Look at and feel the ID to determine if a new photo has been placed over an old one: feel for overlay bumps; look for poor alignment and cut marks; make sure that an overlapping photo has not been drawn in.
- Make sure that the state seal or camera number overlapping the edge of the photo are clear and properly placed. Check to make sure that the overlapping seal or camera number has not been drawn in or altered in any other way.

2. Check the lamination

- Check for air bubbles, a peeled back corner, and faulty re-sealing.
- Look for laminate that is poorly centered or too wide.

3. Check the birth date

- Look for numbers that have been altered, particularly the last digit of the birth date year.
- Check for numbers that differ from the distinctive Bates lettering style used for most state driver's licenses.
- Make sure that all lettering matches and is not typewritten.
- Look for numbers that are drawn in, pressed-on, uneven in size, or cut out and replaced.
- Look for erasures and smeared ink.

4. If a server/seller suspects a license is fake, they should:

- Politely question the guest about the information on the license. Ask questions like “What month were you born?” “What is your zip code?”
- If the seller/server continues to doubt the authenticity of the ID, they should ask for a second ID, preferably something with a photograph.
- If the server/seller is reasonably sure the license is fake, they should refuse to serve the person or ask them to leave the bar. If the laws in the jurisdiction allow it, the fake ID should be confiscated and turned over to law enforcement authorities. (Of course, the seller/server may also choose to call law enforcement authorities to report the offense while the young person is still on the premises.)