

New Florida driver's license rules in effect Oct. 1

Starting Oct. 1, the state will make it harder for Floridians to receive a new or renewed driver's license.

"We anticipate the benefits of enhanced identity protection will far outweigh the inconvenience of providing additional proof of identification," said Sandra Lambert, director of the state division of driver licenses.

Starting Oct. 1:

- The Department of Motor Vehicles will no longer accept driver's licenses or identification cards issued by other states as primary identification.
- All customers must present proof of a Social Security number, including Social Security cards, tax returns, W-2 forms, property tax statements, paychecks, DD-214s, school records.
- All passports, permanent resident cards and employment authorization cards presented as identification or proof of legal residence must be valid. Expired documents will not be accepted.

Several other changes in state law will go into effect on Oct. 1:

- A person will be allowed to elect the school option to avoid points five times in a 10-year period instead of five times in a lifetime.
- Commercial driver license holders who receive a driving under the influence conviction on or after Oct. 1 will be disqualified from operating a commercial vehicle for one year for the first offense -- even if the conviction stems from driving a personal vehicle. They will be permanently disqualified for a second conviction. The penalties are based on the date of conviction, not the date of the

offense.

Other changes going into effect on Oct. 1:

- Class E licenses will be valid for eight years except for drivers 80 and older.
- Class A, B and C commercial licenses will be valid for eight years except for drivers 80 and older. Hazardous materials endorsements will be valid for four years.
- All licenses for drivers 80 and older will be valid for six years.
- Identification cards for children between 5 and 14 will be valid for four years. ID cards for anyone 15 and older will be valid for eight years.
- Fees are also rising. An original Class E license will cost \$27, renewals, \$20. New and renewal commercial licenses will cost \$67, ID cards \$10, replacement Class E licenses \$10, and all endorsements \$7.

For more details about driver's license classes, visit

www.flhsmv.gov/ddl/dlclass.html.