

“Under the Trooper’s Hat”

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I received a couple of questions regarding the REAL ID identification requirements and what exactly the REAL ID does and does not do.

According to the North Dakota Department of Transportation the purpose of the REAL ID is to implement security processes designed to reduce identity fraud and provide the highest certainty that the individual with the identity document in front of you is who he or she says he or she is. The REAL ID prohibits federal agencies from accepting driver’s licenses and identification cards from states that do not meet requirements for official purposes such as boarding an airplane or obtaining access to a federal building.

In a nutshell, it allows a North Dakota resident to use their driver’s license as a form of identification to complete domestic airline travel and access a federal facility such as a federal courthouse or airbase.

There is NO requirement to get a REAL ID. If you do get a REAL ID this means you will be able to use your driver’s license as a form of identification to complete domestic airline travel and access a federal facility. If you chose to not get a REAL ID, then you will need to use a passport for identification when traveling on any domestic airline or accessing of a federal facility.

If you do not get a REAL ID, it does not mean your driver’s license is invalid or expired. You won’t get a citation or go to jail if stopped by a law enforcement officer without having the REAL ID.

After October 1, 2020, if you plan to fly to Coolidge, KS, to visit aunt Edna you will either need a REAL ID or a passport to get on the aircraft. If you choose to drive to visit aunt Edna it does not matter if you have a REAL ID or not!

Once you obtain a REAL ID you do not need to show all the required documents every time you renew your driver’s license unless you have a name or address change.

More information about REAL ID can be found at the North Dakota Department of Transportation website at <https://www.dot.nd.gov/divisions/driverslicense/real-id-information.htm>.

The mission of the North Dakota Highway Patrol is to make a difference every day by providing high-quality law enforcement services to keep North Dakota safe and secure. NDHP invites you to visit the FAQ section of our website: [www.nd.gov/ndhp](http://www.nd.gov/ndhp), like our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/northdakotahighwaypatrol](https://www.facebook.com/northdakotahighwaypatrol) or join us on Twitter @NDHighwayPatrol or Instagram, [www.instagram.com/ndhighwaypatrol](https://www.instagram.com/ndhighwaypatrol), where you can learn more about traffic safety, get tips, and read NDHP news. Download the

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