

# STEPS TO CHECK AN ID

Knowing how to check an ID is the first step to prevent illegal sales of alcohol and tobacco to minors. Technology has changed, and so have fake IDs. It has become very common for young people who aren't 21 to purchase a counterfeit ID online using their own photo and address. Counterfeit IDs often will scan as 21+. It is important for employees to know and use the steps below to identify counterfeit IDs without relying on an ID scanner.

1

## HOLD THE ID IN YOUR HAND

- Rough surfaces, raised photos, or lamination that is not properly sealed may indicate the ID has been altered
- Visually examine the front and back of the ID for printing errors



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## COMPARE THE PHOTO WITH THE PERSON IN FRONT OF YOU

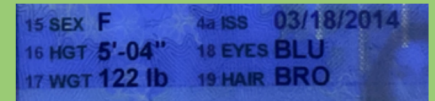
- Features like hair color can change over time, so focus on their eyes and nose, as they are usually consistent features
- Counterfeit IDs may have a real photo so be sure to complete all steps in this guide



3

## COMPARE THE DESCRIPTION ON THE ID WITH THE PERSON

- Eye color, hair color, height
- Counterfeit IDs may have accurate descriptions, so be sure to complete all steps in this guide



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## CHECK EXPIRATION DATE

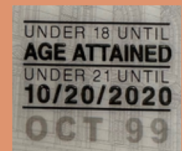
- Expired IDs are not valid IDs
- Deny the sale or ask for another form of ID

EXP 04/25/2023

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## CHECK DATE OF BIRTH

- Check for an "Under 21 Until" date OR
- Add 21 to the year they were born to get their 21st birthday
  - If date is after today, they are not 21

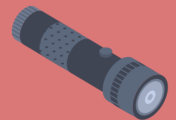


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## USE A 365 NM UV LIGHT TO LOOK FOR ERRORS COMMON ON COUNTERFEIT IDS

- UV ink bleed through
- Glowing edges
- Poor photo quality
- Smearing ink or the wrong color ink

\*See other side for additional information



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## IF UNSURE, ASK QUESTIONS OR FOR ANOTHER FORM OF ID

- Ask questions like street addresses, zip codes, date of birth, etc.
- Ask the person to sign their name and compare to the signature on the card



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## KEEP THE ID IF YOU SUSPECT IT IS FAKE

- You are protected by state statute to confiscate the ID if you suspect it is fake
- Tell the person you suspect the ID is counterfeit or does not belong to them
- If they push back, direct them to call law enforcement to verify the ID



# COUNTERFEIT IDS UNDER UV LIGHTS

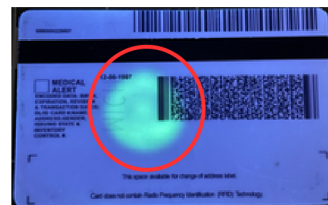
A 365 nanometer UV light helps identify counterfeit IDs by showing errors in UV reactive ink. State Issued IDs do not have errors or defects.

## UV ink bleed through

Images on one side of the card printed in UV reactive ink should not be visible on the other



Counterfeit ID Front

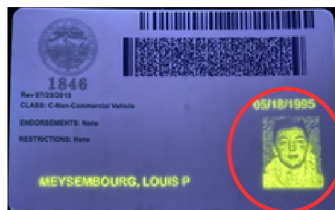


Counterfeit ID Back

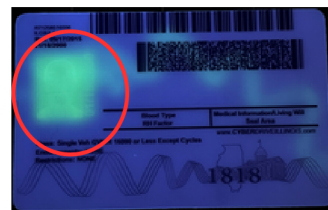
## Poor photo quality

UV images of the ID photo should be clear and recognizable

Ex. grainy, blurry, unclear, lines in photo in counterfeit ID



Counterfeit ID: Grainy Picture



Counterfeit ID: Unclear Picture

## Glowing edges

Many counterfeit IDs will have distinct and significant glowing edges when a flashlight (UV or Regular) is placed on the surface



Counterfeit ID



Counterfeit ID

## Wrong blacklight ink colors

Each state uses the same color(s) for all IDs

For example, Wisconsin ID cards have green and blue UV ink. Most fakes have only blue



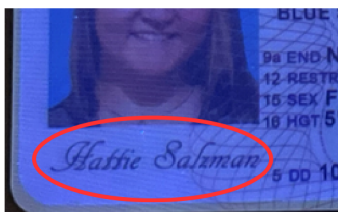
State issued ID



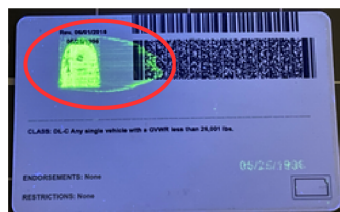
Counterfeit ID

## Manufacturer Defects

Real IDs do not have any manufacturer defects  
See examples below of manufacturer defects in counterfeit IDs



Electronic signatures



Smearred ink



Incorrect placement of UV photo



Printed upside down