

Department of Motor Vehicles
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Puerto-Rico Born Residents May Need New Birth Certificates After July 1 to Qualify for New Driver's License, New ID Card

Requirement is due to Change in Law By Government of Puerto Rico

WETHERSFIELD --Puerto Rico-born residents seeking a new driver's license, new learner's permit or new identity-card may need a new birth certificate from that U.S. territory after July 1 to obtain these credentials under a law passed in Puerto Rico earlier this year.

The new birth certificate will be needed if the person does not have a valid passport and is seeking for the first time either a Connecticut driver's license, learner's permit or ID card. This does not affect people seeking a renewal of either of those credentials.

The Government of Puerto Rico as of July 1 is planning to cancel all birth certificates issued prior to that date. The state has set up a special web site with information in both English and in Spanish for those affected to determine how to obtain the new documents if needed. The web site is: www.ct.gov/prbirth

Wide spread fraud and illegal misuse of the documents has called into question the validity of the original birth certificates from Puerto Rico. In an arrangement negotiated among the Government of Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Departments of State and Homeland Security, the old birth certificates issued before July 1, 2010, will be canceled and the Government of Puerto Rico will act on applications for new ones on or after July 1 to replace them.

"We know this may be an inconvenience for some people, but we want to provide information on what to do," said DMV Commissioner Robert M. Ward. He said that the state's website provides information for obtaining a new birth certificate if someone needs one.

At the DMV the issue will focus on first-time license or ID applicants born in Puerto Rico and who are either those living in the state or moving to the state. The birth certificate is one of two primary identity documents required when these credentials are first issued. The other is a valid passport and if someone possesses one then the new birth certificate will not be needed for to obtain a new driver's license or ID card.

However, people born in Puerto Rico who may need the birth certificate for other state or federal services are advised to check with the individual agencies on whether substitute documents can be used. A link to those agencies can be found at www.ct.gov/prbirth