

## NEW RESIDENTS

### WELCOME TO CONNECTICUT -- HOW TO TRANSFER YOUR OUT-OF-STATE DRIVER'S LICENSE AND VEHICLE REGISTRATION

**ERNIE BERTOTHY:** Welcome to the DMV Infocast, an audio production of the State of Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles. This is Ernie Bertothy, Infocast editor. With us today is **Elaine McDougal** of the DMV's Branch Operations Division. Elaine is here with us today to talk about what new residents should do to obtain their Connecticut driver's license and vehicle registration.

**ERNIE BERTOTHY:** Elaine, thank you very much for joining us today and welcome to all those people who have chosen to move to Connecticut or are establishing residency here in Connecticut. We are going to be talking about two documents today. One is your driver's license; the other is your vehicle registration. First, Elaine, let's talk about your driver's license. Specifically, who needs a Connecticut driver's license?

**ELAINE McDOUGAL:** Anyone who has chosen to make Connecticut their state of residence and will be residing here permanently must have a Connecticut license.

**ERNIE:** But there are some exceptions for some; isn't that correct?

**ELAINE:** The exceptions would be military personal who are stationed here in Connecticut. The military personnel would retain their license from their home state. The personnel and their dependants. And then also we have students that are going to school here in Connecticut. Again, they would have the license from their home state and they would retain that. They would not be required to change over to Connecticut.

**ERNIE:** Okay. Once you establish residency here in Connecticut, you have 30 days to transfer your out- of-state license to a Connecticut driver's license, if you're required to do that. Can you talk about what you need for that transaction when you come to an office?

**ELAINE:** Sure. When you come in, you should be prepared with your out-of-state license obviously, and in addition to that you would need either a birth certificate or a passport, one form of address verification, such as post-marked letter, utility bill, light bill, something that will show us that you have residency here in Connecticut.

**ERNIE:** And Elaine, what if your out-of-state license is lost or expired? What should the customer do?

**ELAINE:** If your out-of-state license is lost, you will need to bring a verification letter from your home state verifying that your license is still valid and the current class of your license. In addition, you'll have to bring one other form of identification with you at the time.

**ERNIE:** And of course a list of those identifications are on our website.

**ELAINE:** That's right. And if your license has expired more than 60 days, you will be required to schedule an appointment to take the test, and that would be the full test, the vision, the knowledge, and the driving test.

**ERNIE:** And if your out-of-state license does not have a photo on it, you will be required to bring in a recent wallet-sized photo of yourself that will be retained by the agency, so please keep that in mind if in fact your current out-of-state license does not have a photo on it.

Okay, let's talk about the fees associated with the transaction of transferring your license. There is a testing fee, isn't that correct, Elaine?

**ELAINE:** That's right. There's a \$40 test fee. The \$40 fee includes the vision test that you'll receive at the office in addition to the knowledge and skills test. However, we will waive the knowledge and skills test as long as your out-of-state license is still valid, but the testing fee we cannot waive.

**ERNIE:** Okay. And there also is a licensing fee as well which can range in price. Could you explain what that range is and why we have a range?

**ELAINE:** Sure. The fee for the driver's license itself is either \$66 or \$77, and the \$66 fee would be for a six-year license, and \$77 fee is for a seven-year license. The expiration on your license will be dependant on your date of birth.

**ERNIE:** Okay. It should also be noted that the list of offices where you can make this transaction is on our website.

Okay, Elaine, let's talk about the registration transaction. Once you establish residency here in Connecticut, you have 60 days to transfer your out-of-state registration to a Connecticut vehicle registration and you also need your Connecticut driver's license before you can make that transaction happen. Can you talk about what is associated with the transferring of your registration to a Connecticut registration?

**ELAINE:** The first thing that an applicant should do before they come to the Motor Vehicle Department is to get an emissions test done on their vehicle. That can be done at several garages throughout the state. There's over 300 garages that will do the emissions test. At the time of the emissions test, they will check the identification number on the vehicle at the same time. If your vehicle is one that does not require an emissions test because it's exempt from the testing or is a new vehicle, like a 2004, 2005, or 2006, the vehicle would have to be brought to the motor vehicle office to have the identification number verified on it. After you get the emissions test done and the identification number verified on the vehicle, you will bring your documents into the office. The documents that we need to see are the out-of-state registration on your vehicle and the title to your vehicle. There are some cases where an applicant may not have the title to your vehicle, and that will be in a case where you still may be making payments on the vehicle, so the lien holder is holding the title to the vehicle. And in that case, we'll accept just the registration.

The other situation may be if the vehicle is leased. A leased vehicle will have the title held by the leasing company, and again we would know that by the name on your registration would be in the name of the leasing company. So the registration in that case would be acceptable also. And one other thing that the registrant should do before they come in is to get the Connecticut insurance card. Your insurance does need to be transferred over to Connecticut before we process the registration.

**ERNIE:** When considering when they should go to an office, Elaine, it should be noted that we are closed on Sundays, we are closed on Mondays, but we do have evening hours on Thursday and we have morning hours on Saturday. Can you just talk about when perhaps the best times to come in to an office might be?

**ELAINE:** Sure. The slower times to come would be on Wednesdays, Thursdays, or Friday mornings. Maybe before noontime if you really wanted to get in before the rush. The Thursday nights and Saturdays are available; however, they are peak busy times and I would tend to steer away from them. Tuesday also is a busy day because it's the first day open after the weekend.

**ERNIE:** For specific branch office hours or locations or if you have more specific questions regarding this Infocast topic, please visit the DMV website. Well, Elaine, thank you for joining us.

**ERNIE BERTOTHY:** This has been an Infocast produced by the State of Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles.