

What to look for when examining identification cards



Checking for Fake IDs

- Check the size, thickness, and color of the card
- Check the placement, size, and typeface of the letters and numbers
- Check the photograph for shading, glare, or "red-eye"
- Check the state or agency seal for accuracy
- Check the back for blurred or dark images
- Check for such phrases as "for personal use," "office use only," or "not a government document"
- Request backup documentation
- Reject and confiscate questionable cards

Checking for Altered IDs

- Check for numbers that have been scratched or bleached out and inked over or cut out and reinserted
- Check for overlapping numbers; the laminate may have been peeled back and replaced
- Check for cloudy images; a new laminate may cover the old one
- Compare the birth date and compare with presenters age.
- Check for rough spots, especially around the edges and over the photograph
- Check the state seal for accuracy and completeness; an inserted photograph may cover part of it
- Request backup documentation
- Reject and confiscate questionable cards

Checking for Borrowed IDs

- Compare the photograph and physical identifiers to the cardholder and question discrepancies
- Ask the presenter to verify personal data on the card
- Obtain a signature and compare it to the one on the card
- Be wary of expired and duplicate cards
- Request backup documentation
- Reject and confiscate questionable cards