



NEWS RELEASE



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County Clerk Hanlon advises of Federal "REAL ID" Act Deadline Approaching in October of 2021

FREEHOLD, NJ – Monmouth County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon is reminding residents that the Federal REAL ID Act compliance deadline is approaching on Oct. 1 of this year. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security had previously extended the enforcement deadline of the Federal REAL ID Act from October of 2020 to October 1, 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The federal government enacted the REAL ID Act after the September 11, 2001 terror attacks to require better secure identification for domestic travel and access to certain federal facilities.

According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, starting October of 2021, you must have a REAL ID compliant driver license/ID to fly within the U.S., unless you use a U.S. passport or another federally approved form of identification. Until that date, a Standard New Jersey driver license will be valid for air travel within the U.S.

The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) is currently issuing REAL ID driver license/IDs by appointment only, which can be made on the MVC website at state.nj.us/mvc/realid.

“I encourage all Monmouth County residents to be mindful of the REAL ID Act compliance deadline of October 1, 2021 by obtaining a REAL ID or alternative, such as a U.S. passport, for future domestic travel by air or entrance to certain federal buildings,” said Clerk Hanlon.

Passport applications are accepted at the Monmouth County Clerk’s two nationally recognized Passport Offices by appointment only at this time:

- Freehold - Monmouth County Clerk’s Office at 33 Mechanic Street, located in the Market Yard Parking Lot (south of Main Street). The hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please call 732-431-7324 to schedule an appointment.
- Neptune - Monmouth County Connection at 3544 Route 66 (near Home Depot). The hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Please call 732-303-2828 to schedule an appointment.

Information about the required documentation to apply for a passport can be found on the Monmouth County Clerk’s Office website at MonmouthCountyClerk.com.

For more information about the Federal REAL ID Act and New Jersey’s compliancy, please visit the New Jersey MVC website at state.nj.us/mvc/realid.

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