

MVD Procedural Quick Update

#40

RE: Driver Education Student Eligibility
Effective date: Immediate

Date: August 24, 2007
To: All MVD
From: Mac Lewis, MVD Policy and Procedures Manager

[This is the latest in a series of procedural updates. These updates deal with specific MVD procedures and practices. Managers and Supervisors should consistently distribute the updates to all personnel and integrate them into regular information and training sessions.]

Effective immediately, if you are presented with a Certificate of Completion from a driver education school that is in obvious violation of the minimum age requirement or if you receive a questionable certificate, you should hold the certificate and contact Kirt Heider to compare and/or verify it with school rosters.

The Traffic Safety Bureau (TSB) and the Institute of Public Law (IPL) at UNM have requested our assistance in monitoring Certificates of Completion presented by students who have completed programs at commercial driver education schools.

The regulations (at 18.20.3.8 NMAC) that govern driver education programs require that:

- a **driver education school** shall not enroll a person as a student unless the person will be fifteen (15) years of age on or before the date the classroom portion of the driver education course will be completed; and
- a **correspondence course** shall not enroll a person as a student unless the person will be fifteen (15) years of age on or before the date the correspondence course will be completed.

In both cases (whether the course is provided by a regular school or a correspondence school), the student must be 15 on or before the date of completion. In no instance, should a person turn 15 after the date of completion that is noted on the certificate.

The Bureau has, however, been made aware of several instances in which driver education students have received Certificates of Completion in violation of the Driver Education School minimum age rule. Please help the TSB and UNM correct this issue by verifying that each student presenting a Certificate of Completion is in fact age-eligible.

If an MVD agent is presented with a certificate in obvious violation of the age requirement, or a questionable certificate, the agent is directed to hold the certificate and contact Kirt Heider at IPL-UNM as soon as possible so that he can compare and/or verify it with school rosters. Kirt can be reached by email to kheider@unm.edu or by phone at (505) 277-0872.

Field office managers and supervisors should refer any comments or questions regarding this Procedural Quick Update to their Bureau Chiefs, with cc to mac.lewis@state.nm.us. Others are encouraged to direct comments or questions directly to Mac Lewis, MVD Policy and Procedure Manager, at mac.lewis@state.nm.us.
