

# MVD Procedural Quick Update

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**RE: DL/ID Name – First MI Last**  
**Effective date: Immediate**

Date: May 16, 2008  
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, the name of every customer applying for a new or renewal driver's license or ID is to be entered as first name, middle initial and last name.**

Some customers understandably would like to have their middle names spelled out, or to abbreviate their first name, or to use more than one middle initial.

Unfortunately, we cannot oblige. Our systems, the need for easy look up of cardholders by their legal names, and a growing demand for consistency among official identity documents, require that we stick to first name, middle initial and last name.

Examples:

- Henry McIlvaine Lewis would much prefer to be H. McIlvaine Lewis or just McIlvaine Lewis, and McIlvaine is so much nicer and more interesting a name! Moreover, when he's Henry, people keep on asking him why he's called Mac. If he can't have McIlvaine, he'd at least prefer to get rid of the Henry and be H. M. Lewis or Mac Lewis. No. His correct, New Mexico driver's license or ID name is Henry M. Lewis.
- Mac's brother, Edwin A. S. Lewis, would undoubtedly like to include the A. S. on his New Mexico license. And he might very well ask for a license or ID in the name of Edwin A. S. Lewis, Edwin A. S. Lewis, EAS Lewis or some other creative variation. No. His correct, New Mexico driver's license name is and will remain Edwin A. Lewis.

Our systems simply do not allow for any name format other than first mi last, with first and last names spelled out and a single middle initial. And creative manipulation of the system to force the full middle name or an additional middle initial into the first or last name entry, or use of a nickname, is far more likely to cause confusion and difficulty with record look-ups than it is to be of any value to the customer.

Effective immediately, creative naming conventions will no longer be accepted for any reason. Every name must be entered with full first name, a single or no middle initial (the first middle initial if the customer has more than one), and full last name. A hyphenated last name is perfectly acceptable, but only if it is the customer's legal last name, not as a convenient method of squeezing in the full middle name.

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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](mailto: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](mailto:mac.lewis@state.nm.us).

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