



COUNTY OF ERIE

MICHAEL P. KEARNS
COUNTY CLERK

June 25, 2018

Theresa L. Egan, Executive Deputy Commissioner
New York State Department of Motor Vehicles
6 Empire State Plaza,
Albany, New York 12228

Re. NYS Driver License Renewal Information

Commissioner Egan,

I am writing to you as the Erie County Clerk with sincere concerns about the information sent to residents when it is time for them to renew their New York State driver license or non-driver ID.

As you are aware, the Real ID Act passed by Congress in 2005, updated the security standards of licenses issued by states. New York State began issuing Real ID compliant identification in October, 2017. This has required those applying for their license renewal to submit additional documentation when upgrading to either the Real ID or Enhanced Driver License. While the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles has been diligent in notifying those renewing about most of the additional documentation required, one significant piece of information has been left out.

Per the federal Real ID Act, if the person renewing has changed their name shown on their birth certificate, they must present their original or certified copy of their marriage certificate, divorce decree or court ordered document, proving the change of name, in order to apply for the Real ID or Enhanced Driver License. Unfortunately, on a daily basis we are turning people away from completing their license renewal because they were not notified that this document is now required.

I am urging the Department of Motor Vehicles to address this mistake, by adding this information to the license renewal notifications sent to New Yorkers who are due for license renewal. This will help ensure efficient service and that people are able to obtain an updated license at the time of renewing.

Your help in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael P. Kearns".

MICHAEL P. KEARNS
Erie County Clerk