



Process for Checking I.D. – The F-L-A-G System

F = FEEL

- Have person remove the ID from their wallet or plastic holder (never accept a laminated document)
- Feel for information cut-out or pasted on (especially near photo and birth date areas)
- Feel the texture – a CA driver's license should feel smooth, not bumpy.

L = LOOK

- Look for the California State seals; these seals are highly visible without any special light.
- Look at the photograph. Hairstyles, eye makeup and eye color can be altered, so focus your attention on the person's nose and chin. These features don't change. When encountering people with beards or facial hair, cover the facial hair portion of the photo and concentrate on the nose or ears.
- Look at the height and weight. They must reasonably match the person.
- Look at the date of birth and do the math! Pre-printed age charts can be helpful.
- Compare the age on the ID with the person's apparent age. For example, if the ID says the person is 22, but they only look 17, do not accept the ID no matter how genuine it looks.
- Look at the expiration date. If the ID has expired, it is not acceptable.

A = ASK

- Ask questions of the person, such as their middle name, zodiac sign, or year of high school graduation. Ask them the month they were born. If they respond with a number, it is probably because they are lying. If the person is with a companion, ask the companion to quickly tell you the person's name. Any hesitation means they are probably lying.
- Ask the person to sign their name, and then compare signatures.

G = GIVE BACK

If the ID looks genuine, give the ID back to the customer and make the sale. If the ID is phony or altered, you should still return the ID.

Process for Checking I.D. (cont)

Additional Information

- 21 is the legal drinking age in California
- You should ask for ID from any customer who looks under ___ years of age.
- If you ask for and see bona fide (legally acceptable) before you serve the customer, you can defend yourself against a charge of selling alcohol to an underage person.
- A legally acceptable ID is *one document* that contains all of the following:
 1. Issued by a government agency (such as federal, state, country or city)
 2. Name and signature of the person
 3. Date of birth of the person
 4. Physical description of the person
 5. Photograph of the person
 6. Currently valid (in other words, not expired)
- Examples of acceptable documents include:
 1. California driver's license
 2. California ID card
 3. Out-of-state driver's license or ID card (with photo)
 4. U.S. Passport
 5. U.S. Military I.D.

The law allows you to accept all of the above documents. However, you can set a policy that is more stringent than the law (for example, "We only accept California driver's licenses.") Remember you have the legal right to refuse service to anyone who cannot produce adequate ID (Section 25659).

