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Beware Real ID Scams as TSA Deadlines Approach

The Transportation Security Administration's Real ID deadline is fast approaching, and staying informed could save you headaches at the airport. After May 7, 2025, a standard driver's license won't cut it for domestic flights; you'll need a Real ID-compliant ID or passport. Check your state's DMV website to confirm your ID's status and upgrade if needed.

But keep in mind: Scammers are also cashing in on the confusion. Beware of fake websites or emails claiming to offer "Real ID registration" for a fee. The TSA doesn't issue Real IDs — only state agencies do.

Avoid phishing traps by sticking to official government sites (ending in .gov). And never share personal info in responses to unsolicited messages.

Tips to protect yourself:

- Double-check your ID well before travel, renew early, and keep it secure.
- Bookmark your state's DMV site for updates.
- Remember: If an offer seems too good to be true — like expedited Real IDs for cash — it probably is.
- Stay vigilant, and enjoy your trip with peace of mind.

Stay Safe from Job, Employment Agency Scams

Looking for work? Protecting yourself from fraudulent employment schemes is more critical than ever, with job scams costing consumers \$501 million in 2024, according to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). As scammers prey on job seekers with fake opportunities and sham agencies, here's how to safeguard your money and personal information.

Verify the Opportunity: Legitimate employers don't ask for payment upfront. Be wary of any job offer requiring you to pay for training, equipment, or "processing fees" before starting. Research the company online—check its official website, look for a physical address, and search for reviews. If it's vague or nonexistent, it's a red flag.



Illustration by Grok

Guard Your Information: Never share sensitive details like your Social Security number, bank account info, or driver's license until you've confirmed the job's legitimacy through direct contact with the employer. Scammers often use phishing emails or texts posing as recruiters—double-check email domains and avoid clicking suspicious links.

Trust Your Instincts: Offers promising high pay for little work or vague job descriptions are often too good to be true. Legitimate employers provide clear details about roles and expectations. If you're pressured to act fast or send money immediately, walk away.

Report Suspicious Activity: If you encounter a scam, report it to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud). This helps protect others and tracks fraud trends.

Finally, stay proactive—use reputable job boards, network with trusted contacts, and verify every step. In today's job market, diligence is your best defense against scammers looking to exploit your career goals.

**Ripped Off?
Here's Where
to Call First**

Brevard County
Sheriff's Office non-emergency line:
321-264-5201

Seminole County
Sheriff's Office non-emergency line:
407-665-6650

Florida Attorney General
Fraud Hotline:
866-966-7226