



Department of Driver Services Introduces Two New Initiatives for Customers applying for Georgia Chauffeur Permits

The Department of Driver Services (DDS) is excited to announce two new initiatives that will begin in January of 2010.

First, the DDS will begin issuing more secure permits for Georgia's limousine chauffeurs. The new permits will be noticeably smaller and can be trimmed to fit into a wallet or attached to a lanyard. The new permit will also include increased security features designed to prevent fraud. All previously issued permits will remain valid until they expire.

The fee for the permit remains \$15. Duplicate and replacement permits are also \$15. As a reminder, applications for a chauffeur's permit can be accessed and downloaded from the DDS website, www.dds.ga.gov.

Second, the DDS is implementing a new initiative that will significantly reduce the time it takes to process a customer's application for a Georgia chauffeur's permit. The new process utilizes existing technology to expedite the criminal background check, traditionally the most time-consuming part of the certification process, without sacrificing integrity.

Customers will be required to submit their fingerprints to the DDS electronically as part of the certification process through the Georgia Applicant Processing System (GAPS), a network of LiveScan fingerprinting locations throughout the state certified by the Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC). In most instances, a customer's criminal history results are available to the DDS within 24 to 48 hours following submission of fingerprints, decreasing the overall amount of time it takes the DDS to process an application.

The DDS has been using GAPS since January of 2009 as part of the certification process for other driver safety programs with very positive results. The fee for GAPS is \$33.95.

The new Chauffeur Permit application, including information and instructions on GAPS, will be available on the DDS website at www.dds.ga.gov on January 1, 2010. Additional information regarding GAPS processes, policies, fees, and print locations may be found at www.ga.cogentid.com.

As always, it is our goal to provide faster, friendlier, and easier customer service to the citizens of Georgia.

December 28, 2009