

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: January 7, 2025

Geneva, IL –Kane County Clerk John A. Cunningham



Kane County Clerk Encourages Travelers to Visit Clerk's Office To Apply For Passports Or Get Copies Of Birth Records Ahead Of May 7 Federal Real Id Deadline

Kane County Clerk John A. Cunningham offered an update today about the impact of federal REAL ID law on air travel set to take effect on May 7, and how the County Clerk's Office can help Kane County residents be prepared for the impending changes.

Clerk Cunningham said, "The REAL ID compliance deadline is coming up soon on May 7. **If you plan to board an airplane after May 7, even for a domestic flight, you will need to show a REAL ID compliant form of identification**, which for most people, means either a current passport or a REAL ID compliant driver's license. You can also apply for a new passport at our office. Additionally, **if you were born in Kane County, you can pick up a certified copy of your birth record which is required for a REAL ID compliant driver's license or a new passport.**"

Beginning May 7, all travelers who wish to use a state-issued identification document, such as an Illinois driver's license, to board an airplane or go through airport security checkpoints, must have a document that complies with the federal REAL ID Act, a federal law setting minimum standards for state identification documents. Enforcement of this law has been previously delayed, but is expected to take effect on May 7. A traveler using a driver's license issued by a state **not in compliance** with the law will not be able to use that license to board an airplane or go through a TSA security checkpoint **after May 7**.

REAL ID compliant driver's licenses and state IDs in Illinois have a **gold star** in the upper right corner. A **non-compliant license or ID** will not have the gold star and will have the words "**Federal Limits Apply**" on it. For more information about how to apply for a REAL ID compliant license, please visit the IL Secretary of State website at <https://realid.ilsos.gov/>.

Cunningham added, "I anticipate that we will see an increase in traffic to the office as we get closer to the implementation date. I encourage you to come to the Clerk's Office as soon as possible to ensure you have a compliant form of ID before May 7."

First time applicants can apply for a passport in-person at the Clerk's Office, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, or from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday. For a user fee of \$15 per person, passport applicants can also have a passport photograph taken when they apply at the Clerk's Office. For information about the passport photography service, application fees, acceptable forms of ID, or passports generally, visit clerk.kanecountyil.gov/Records/Passports/passports.aspx or call (630) 232-5964.

The Kane County Clerk's Office is an authorized acceptance agency for passports. The Clerk's Office performs several other major functions, including custodian of County records, registrar of vital records, chief election official, and tax extension. The Clerk's Office provides information and resources to residents through the Clerk's website clerk.kanecountyil.gov , Twitter [@KaneCoILClerk](https://twitter.com/KaneCoILClerk), and Facebook www.facebook.com/kanecountyclerk.

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