

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: December 7, 2017

Kane County, Geneva, IL - John A. Cunningham

CLERK CUNNINGHAM PROVIDES UPDATED INFORMATION CONCERNING IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED FOR TRAVEL

Prior to Thanksgiving, Kane County Clerk John A. Cunningham, offered information to Kane County residents about the status of federal laws and regulations affecting air travel, including the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) standards regarding identification that can be used to pass through security at airports and board airplanes.

In order for a traveler to use a state-issued identification document, such as a driver's license, to board an airplane or pass through airport security checkpoints, the issuing state must comply with the federal REAL ID Act, a law passed by Congress in 2005 to set minimum standards for the issuance of identification documents. 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 pass through airport security, even for domestic travel, after January 22, 2018.

The Clerk's Office was notified last week that DHS has granted an extension to the state of Illinois until October 10, 2018 to continue working toward full compliance with the law. Illinois is currently not in full compliance but the extension allows the state to continue working toward that goal.

Cunningham said, "The Secretary of State's Office read our public advisory about applying for passports as a source of valid ID in the event the extension was not granted, and the Secretary's Office called to inform us that the extension had been granted. I am proud that our taking preemptive action to advise residents about potential problems for travelers beginning early next year was appreciated and noted by the Secretary's Office."

With the extension in effect until October 2018, Kane County residents traveling in the near future will be able to use a valid driver's license for domestic air travel. However, Cunningham recommends that those who plan to travel in 2018 should come to the Clerk's Office to apply for a passport.

"With a current and valid passport, you can always be sure that you will be able to board your airplane and not get stuck at the airport, no matter what rules the federal government imposes about driver's licenses," Cunningham said.

First time applicants can apply for either a passport book or card in-person at the Clerk's Office, 719 S. Batavia Ave., Bldg. B, Geneva, IL 60134, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, or from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 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 www.kanecountyclerk.org/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 www.kanecountyclerk.org, Twitter [@KaneCoILClerk](https://twitter.com/KaneCoILClerk), and Facebook www.facebook.com/kanecountyclerk.

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