



NEWS RELEASE



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County Clerk Hanlon Advises of Federal REAL ID Act Extension to 2023

A U.S. Passport is a REAL ID Compliant Form of Identification

FREEHOLD, NJ – Monmouth County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon is advising residents that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has again extended the enforcement deadline of the Federal REAL ID Act by 19 months, from October 1, 2021 to May 3, 2023 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Clerk Hanlon is also reminding residents that a U.S. Passport is a REAL ID compliant form of identification and that the Monmouth County Clerk has three convenient passport offices in Freehold Borough, Neptune, and Eatontown to assist with the passport application process.

The federal government enacted the REAL ID Act after the September 11, 2001 terror attacks to require better secure identification for domestic travel and access to certain federal facilities. Residents will now have additional time to comply with the law due to the recent extension by the federal government.

According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, starting May 3, 2023, a REAL ID compliant identification is required for air travel within the U.S.

“Some residents have expressed frustration about the difficulty they have faced when trying to obtain a REAL ID driver license from the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission due to the agency’s frequent office closures throughout the health crisis,” said Clerk Hanlon. “It is important for residents to be informed that a U.S. Passport is a REAL ID compliant form of identification and that the Monmouth County Clerk has three convenient passport offices open and ready to serve the public.”

Passport applications are accepted at the Monmouth County Clerk’s two permanent passport offices and mobile office by appointment only at this time:

- Freehold – Monmouth County Clerk’s Office at 33 Mechanic Street, located in the Market Yard Parking Lot (south of Main Street). The hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please call 732-431-7324 to schedule an appointment.
- Neptune – Monmouth County Connection at 3544 Route 66 (near Home Depot). The hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Please call 732-303-2828 to schedule an appointment.
- Eatontown – Mobile County Connection at Monmouth Mall, Upper Level adjacent to Boscov’s at 180 Route 35. Open on the first Thursday of each month from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please call 732-431-7324 to schedule an appointment.

Information about the required documentation to apply for a passport can be found on the Monmouth County Clerk’s Office website at MonmouthCountyClerk.com.