

MVD Procedural Quick Update

#62

RE: Vision Screening
Effective date: Immediate

Date: May 9, 2008
To: All MVD
From: Mac Lewis, MVD Policy and Procedures Manager

[This is the latest in a series of procedural updates. These updates deal with specific MVD procedures and practices. Managers and Supervisors should consistently distribute the updates to all personnel and integrate them into regular information and training sessions.]

The vision screening required for issuance of a driver's license or permit must be conducted before the Driver's Application is processed or fee collected.

It has been the practice in some field offices to do the vision screening after the Driver's Application has been processed and money collected. The unfortunate consequence, if the applicant then fails to pass the vision exam, is that the transaction must be voided and any monies returned.

By having the vision screening conducted first, before the Driver's Application is processed or any fee is collected,

- we avoid wasting the customer's valuable time;
- we avoid unnecessary voided transactions; and
- we avoid any temptation to "fudge" the results of the vision screening.

Moreover, the Driver's Application cannot be processed without the entry of vision scores. Processing the application before the vision screening has been conducted requires the entry of false vision test scores. Entry of any such false scores on a Driver's Application, at any time and for any reason, is inappropriate and unacceptable.

If for any reason a license is actually issued using false vision test scores, the safety of the driver and all who share the road with him is jeopardized, and there are potentially severe consequences for anyone who participated in the issuance of that license.

For all of these reasons, it is mandatory that vision screening always be conducted before a Driver's Application is processed or any fee collected.

Field office managers and supervisors should refer any comments or questions regarding this Procedural Quick Update to their Bureau Chiefs, with cc to mac.lewis@state.nm.us. Others are encouraged to direct comments or questions directly to Mac Lewis, MVD Policy and Procedure Manager, at mac.lewis@state.nm.us.
