



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES
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www.dmv.ri.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 3, 2025

RI DMV WARNS PUBLIC OF ESCALATING TEXT MESSAGE SCAM

Cranston, RI, June 3, 2025 – The Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles (RI DMV) is issuing an urgent alert to the public following a recent surge in fraudulent text messages falsely claiming to be from the DMV. These scams are designed to deceive recipients into clicking malicious links and submitting personal and/or financial information under false threats of license suspension, fines, and credit score or legal penalties.

A recent example of this scam includes a message that reads:

“Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Final Notice: Enforcement Penalties Begin on May 30. Our records indicate that you currently have an unpaid traffic violation... Please pay immediately before enforcement to avoid license suspension and further legal disputes...”

These messages are NOT from the RI DMV. They make false claims, cite fictitious legal code, and link to fraudulent websites. The RI DMV does NOT send payment demands or threats via text message, and we strongly urge the public to avoid clicking on any suspicious links or engaging with these messages. Clicking any links may expose individuals to identity theft, malware, or financial fraud.

“Scammers are continually preying on people's fears to manipulate them into revealing personal and financial information,” warns DMV Administrator Walter R. Craddock. “We encourage all Rhode Islanders to stay alert and verify their driving privileges only through reliable, official sources.”

How to Protect Yourself from Scams:

- Do NOT click on any links or reply to suspicious text messages.
- Do NOT provide personal or financial information.
- Be aware that DMV related information is sent via mail, not text messages.
- Report fraudulent messages to the **FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center** (www.ic3.gov) or forward them to 7726 (SPAM) to notify your mobile provider.
- Report the message to the **FTC** at <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov>.

Rhode Island residents who have concerns about their DMV records should utilize our **Online DMV Customer Portal** at <https://ridmvservices.ri.gov/guest-signin> to view license and registration status, expiration dates, and any blocks or suspensions.

For more Division of Motor Vehicles information, please visit www.dmv.ri.gov.

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