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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Taxation and Revenue Department, Plaintiffs Dismiss Driver's License Lawsuit**

An agreement has been reached between the Taxation and Revenue Department and New Mexicans who were wrongly denied driver's licenses during the previous administration. This agreement settles the last outstanding portion of a lawsuit that has been ongoing since January 2018.

The parties agreed to settle the lawsuit last year, but the Department did not undertake a stipulated public information campaign to inform the public about requirements to receive a non-Real ID compliant driver's licenses until now, in order to allow for the inclusion of statutory changes made this year.

The order signed this week formally dismisses the lawsuit.

"The Taxation and Revenue Department is glad to put this lawsuit behind us. New Mexico residents deserve to receive a driver's license with minimal difficulty," said Cabinet Secretary Stephanie Schardin Clarke. "We are committed to ensuring that people know just what their options are and what documents they'll need when they apply."

The lawsuit was brought by former Santa Fe Mayor David Coss and other individuals, the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness, Somos Un Pueblo Unido and other organizations representing low-income New Mexicans.

"The state Legislature and the new administration have recognized how critical it is for all New Mexicans to have access to a driver's license or an ID card, as a matter of sound public safety policy," said Marcela Díaz, Executive Director of Somos Un Pueblo Unido, an organizational plaintiff in the lawsuit. "Dismissing this case and collaborating with the MVD to make the licensing system more efficient and fair provide a model for how state agencies and community groups can work together for the betterment of all state residents."

Under legislation enacted in 2019, the requirements to receive a Standard Driver's License that is not compliant with the federal Real ID Act have been streamlined, effective October 1, 2019. To qualify for the new Standard Driver's License, New Mexicans must provide one document that provides proof of identity and age and two documents that prove New Mexico residency.

Under the new law, fingerprints are no longer required for any applicants for a Standard Driver's License. Likewise, New Mexicans do not have to provide a Social Security number or any other federal identification number and do not have to provide proof of lawful immigration status for a Standard Driver's License.

The more rigorous process to obtain a Real ID-compliant license is unchanged, as that process is established in federal law.

New Mexicans who do not drive have the option of obtaining a Standard Identification Card.

The Standard Driver's Licenses and IDs do not satisfy federal Real ID requirements and after October 1, 2020 will not be valid for boarding commercial airline flights or for entering certain federal facilities. However, under the new law, private establishments and state agencies that accept REAL ID credentials must also accept Standard Driver's Licenses and ID cards for identification purposes in New Mexico.

Residents can apply for the new Standard Driver's Licenses online at [mvd.newmexico.gov](http://mvd.newmexico.gov) beginning September 30, 2019. New Mexicans who want to apply for a REAL ID credential must still apply in person.

The Motor Vehicle Division also will have special Saturday office hours at seven branches for three weekends in October as part of the rollout. The following offices will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on October 5, 12 and 19, 2019.

- Albuquerque Montgomery Plaza office, 4575 San Mateo NE, Suite G190
- Albuquerque Eagle Vista office, 9651 Eagle Ranch Road NW
- Albuquerque Rio Bravo office, 3211 Coors Boulevard SW, Suites D10 and 11
- Las Cruces Main Street office, 505 S. Main Street, Suite 357
- Las Cruces Del Rey office, 3291 Del Rey Boulevard, Suite 10
- Santa Fe office, 2546 Camino Entrada
- Gallup office, 1710 East Aztec Avenue

The MVD mobile unit will be in Hobbs to conduct business on those days, as well.

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