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## **Three Mexican Nationals Arrested for Trying to Fraudulently Obtain New Mexico Driver's Licenses**

**SANTA FE** – Taxation and Revenue Secretary Demesia Padilla today announced that State and Federal agents on Tuesday arrested three undocumented immigrants from Mexico who are accused of trying to obtain New Mexico driver's licenses by fraudulently representing they were living in Albuquerque.

Rafael Frias Landin, 40; Manuel Landin, 48; and Miguel Garcia, 34, all residents of Lakeland, Florida, have been taken into custody by the United States Border Patrol to be processed for deportation to Mexico.

State Tax Fraud investigators received a tip after the suspects made an appointment to apply for New Mexico driver's licenses by using out-of-state telephone numbers. The suspects also leased an apartment in Albuquerque for three months, but were staying in a motel when they arrived in Albuquerque last week.

All three men were questioned when they came to the MVD office to receive their temporary driver's licenses and admitted to investigators that they drove from Lakeland, Florida to Albuquerque for the sole purpose of receiving the driver's licenses and they were not residents of New Mexico.

“This is no secret and it happens every day as illegal immigrants living outside of New Mexico are using legitimate residential documents to fraudulently obtain our driver's licenses,” said Padilla. “The only reason we were able to arrests these individuals were they made a mistake of using an out-of-state telephone numbers.

“ A majority of illegal immigrants who apply for our driver's licenses make appointments by using in-state disposable telephone numbers, and it's very hard for our investigators to tell who is gaming our system and who is a legitimate applicant,” said Padilla. “This will continue unabated until we repeal the law that issues driver's licenses to illegal immigrants.”

This case was jointly handled by the Tax Fraud Investigations Division, the State Police and the United States Border Patrol.

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