



Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
920 Colorado St.
Austin, Texas 78701
Phone: (800) 803-9202

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tela Mange

Public Information Officer

Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation

512.463.3208

TDLR Cautions: Beware of Scammers Trying To Sell “Required” Posters to Cosmetologists, Barbers and Massage Establishments

AUSTIN – Rio Grande Valley cosmetologists, barbers and massage establishments are being warned not to fall victim to an apparent fraudster who is trying to sell posters to Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation licensees.

The agency has received a report that someone dressed in a uniform similar to a U.S. Postal Service uniform and identifying themselves as a State of Texas employee visited a cosmetology salon in the RGV on Wednesday and asked the owner to purchase a blue-colored poster. The poster contained information on first aid, employee rights and other items.

The man told the owner that they were required to display the poster when TDLR inspects the facility and asked for \$64 in cash or debit. He told the owner that if they did not purchase the poster at that time, they would receive instructions on how to send a money order for \$84.

TDLR requires cosmetology establishments to display only two posters in addition to their establishment license and operator licenses: a poster with directions on how to file a complaint with TDLR and a poster on how to recognize human trafficking. All are available for free on the TDLR website:

- Reporting complaints: <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/misc/ComplaintSignTDLR.pdf>
- Stop Human Trafficking (vertical): <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/cosmet/forms/human-trafficking-sign-multi-lang.pdf>
- Stop Human Trafficking (horizontal): <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/cosmet/forms/Human%20Trafficking%20Horizontal%20Sign.pdf>

Inspectors for the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation will never request or accept money under any circumstances while calling, visiting or conducting an inspection.

Real TDLR inspectors **will**:

- introduce themselves;

Contact: Tela Mange | Public Information Officer | Texas Department of Licensing & Regulation

512-463-3208 | tela.mange@tdlr.texas.gov | media.inquiries@tdlr.texas.gov | www.tdlr.texas.gov

TDLR Customer Service | (512) 463-6599 | Toll-Free (in Texas) | (800) 803-9202 | Relay Texas-TDD: (800) 735-2989

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- show their State of Texas employee ID card;
- provide their contact information upon request; and
- provide their TDLR business card upon request.

Real TDLR inspectors **cannot** and **will not**:

- accept payment for license fees;
- request money for violations; or
- charge for inspections.

TDLR asks that businesses approached by someone posing as a TDLR employee contact TDLR and local law enforcement immediately. Impersonating a public servant is a third-degree felony in Texas.

About TDLR

TDLR provides regulatory oversight for a broad range of occupations, businesses, facilities, and equipment in Texas. The agency protects the health and safety of Texans by ensuring they are served by qualified, licensed professionals. Inspections of individuals, businesses, and equipment are done on a regular basis to safeguard the public. Currently, the agency regulates 37 business and occupational licensing programs with almost 1,000,000 licensees across the state.

Visit TDLR's [website](#) for more information and resources. You can search the [TDLR licensee database](#), and also find [past violations](#) in which a final order was issued against companies or individuals. TDLR's Customer Service line is available anytime between 7 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 1-800-803-9202. TDLR representatives are fluent in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.

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