



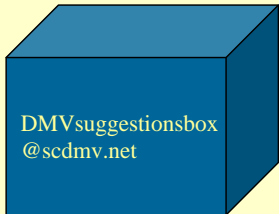
Operational Newsbreak

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The South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles administers the State's motor vehicle licensing and titling laws by maintaining strict controls to deliver secure and valid identification, licenses, property records, while accurately accounting for the receipt and timely distribution of all revenue collected in order to best serve our citizens.

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Same Sex Marriages

Effective **immediately**, South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles will accept any marriage certificate from any state, including the District of Columbia.

Page 14 of [Procedure DL-003](#) *Acceptable Documents for US Citizens* and

Page 18 of [Procedure DL-004](#) *Acceptable Documents for International Customers* were changed as follows.

- A. Removed the following statement.

~~*Same sex marriages are not recognized in this state according to SC Code of Law §20-1-15 and Article XVII, Section 15 of the South Carolina Constitution.*~~

- B. Replaced the terms “husband and wife” with “spouses”.

~~*Husband OR wife*~~ *Spouses* can change middle or last names at the time of marriage. Either party can choose to keep their pre-married name, or can adopt some combination of middle and last names from either spouse.

DMV will only accept a court order or a marriage certificate to make a legal name change as indicated on page 14 of Procedure DL-003.

- b) SC law does not recognize a common law right to a change of a person’s legal name unless decreed by the court. SC Code of Law §§ 15-49-10 and 15-49-20, detail the requirements to obtain a legal name change.
 - 1) Persons in a common law marriage may not legally change their names without a marriage certificate or court order.

REMINDER: Customer service is priority. Employees must treat every customer with respect and dignity.