

# IT IS EASY TO IDENTIFY AGE – MINOR DRIVER LICENSES



**MINOR DRIVER LICENSE**  
Vertical (Portrait) Style

## Minor vs Adult

The vertical driver license (portrait-style) has been adopted by most states to designate that the person may be under 21 years of age. This format was created to help better identify minors and prevent underage drinking.

If someone hands you a vertical driver license, it should

immediately be a **red flag**. Anyone who is trying to determine age will know that this person is either currently a minor or was very recently a minor.

Most states use the vertical format for a minor driver license or ID card. Utah uses the vertical driver license to show both the date the person turns 19 for tobacco sales and 21 for alcohol sales.



**ADULT DRIVER LICENSE**  
Horizontal (Landscape) Style



Further inspection is necessary, but not much. All you have to do is look at the **RED LETTERING** that states "UNDER 21 UNTIL" and it gives you the date. THERE IS NO MATH REQUIRED. It does require that you know what day it is or have a calendar handy. Remember; just do not use the blue date, as that applies solely to tobacco sales.

It is possible for a person who is no longer a minor to still have a vertical driver license. They may have turned 21 since they received their minor license. For instance, if the minor obtained the license when they were 19 years old, they would turn 21 in two years and it would still be valid for another two years. Thus, the now-adult may still legally possess their old vertical license, but they would now be of legal drinking age. Utah does not require minors turning adults to obtain a new license at this time. If an adult holds a valid portrait-style driver license, this is still an acceptable form of ID to verify age and serve them alcohol.

