

Consumer Alert!

International Driver's Licenses: A Dead End?

(NAPS)—A driver's license that can never be suspended or revoked? That's what some marketers of Web sites are offering, and if it sounds too good to be true, it is.

What these ads claim is that—for somewhere between \$65 and \$350—you can get an international driver's license (IDL) or an international driving permit (IDP), which can be used in place of a state-issued driver's license. Despite marketers' claims, these documents:

- do *not* authorize legal driving in the U.S., even for people who don't have state-issued licenses or whose state-issued license has been suspended or revoked;
- can *not* be used to avoid points or fines affecting state-issued driver's licenses; and
- can *not* be used as an official photo ID in the U.S.

According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), if you're a U.S. resident, and you're caught using an IDP in place of a valid, state-issued driver's license, the consequences can be severe.

What is an IDP?

An IDP is simply a translation of your state-issued license for



Unless you're going to travel to a foreign country, an international driver's permit is useless.

when you drive in some foreign countries. If you are a U.S. resident, an IDP is useless within America's borders. What's more, only two organizations are authorized to issue IDPs—the American Automobile Association and the American Automobile Touring Alliance—and they each charge \$10.

To learn more about driver's license requirements, contact the state department of motor vehicles. If you've been scammed by a seller of bogus IDLs or IDPs, file a complaint with the FTC at www.ftc.gov or call 1-877-FTC-HELP.