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DHSMV WARNS CUSTOMERS ABOUT IMITATION WEBSITES

~ Don't pay extra fees! ~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles warns the public about deceptive websites that pretend to be the official DHSMV website to lure people into paying unnecessary fees. Some official-looking websites require their customers to pay a surcharge for their assistance, while others advertise non-government services and provide outdated or inaccurate information. DHSMV does not require a surcharge for any of its websites -- www.GoRenew.com and www.flhsmv.gov. The Department posts its fees for various services on www.flhsmv.gov.

In addition to posing as the official website, the owners or creators of the misleading websites have paid a fee to search engine companies to ensure their links appear at the top of the webpage when Internet users search for driver license or vehicle registration information. When customers go to the websites, they are asked for a name, contact information and credit card information, and then are charged just to get to DHSMV's websites.

"Don't be fooled," said DHSMV Executive Director Julie Jones. "The websites skirt the law to trap unwitting consumers into paying additional fees. Our website says 'Official Website of the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles' at the top of the home page."

DHSMV officials say they are disappointed and disgusted that any entity would attempt such a scheme. However, the deceptive websites post a small disclaimer that they are not affiliated with the Department or government of any kind, so what they are doing technically is legal.

Many customers can skip the trip to an office and renew driver licenses, identification cards and vehicle tags, as well as conduct other driving-related business online at www.GoRenew.com. Customers who previously renewed their driver license online will be required to visit an office for the next renewal.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The Department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit www.flhsmv.gov, follow us on Twitter at [@FDHSMV](https://twitter.com/FDHSMV) or find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FDHSMV).

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