



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Taxation and Revenue Department
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Brazilian Nationals Arrested for Trying to Fraudulently Obtain New Mexico Driver's Licenses

SANTA FE – Taxation and Revenue Secretary Demesia Padilla today announced that State and Federal agents on Friday arrested seven illegal immigrants from Brazil and Mexico who are accused of trying to obtain New Mexico driver's licenses by using fraudulent documents.

“This is becoming a dangerous norm at our MVD offices where illegal immigrants from across the country are coming here for the sole purpose of obtaining our driver's license and then leaving the State,” said Secretary Padilla. “We need to repeal the law that is perpetuating this criminal activity with impunity, and putting our public and national safety at risk. We will again be asking the Legislature this upcoming session to repeal this dangerous law and restore the public confidence in our driver's licenses.”

Six Brazilian nationals – two men living in Florida, and two men and two women living in Kansas – made separate appointments to obtain New Mexico driver's licenses in Albuquerque on Friday. One Mexican national, living in Albuquerque, is accused of helping the two Brazilian men from Florida drive to the MVD office. All seven suspects were taken into custody by the Border Patrol after being interviewed by agents for the Tax Fraud Investigations Unit. They are being held in El Paso pending criminal charges.

Investigators for the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department, which issues the driver's licenses, became suspicious after reviewing their residential documents and appointment logs. The suspects allegedly admitted that they did not live in New Mexico and fraudulently obtained proof of residential documents to obtain New Mexico driver's licenses.

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