

Governor extends deadline for expiring driver's licenses, identification cards

TOPEKA — Governor Laura Kelly signed Executive Order 20-70 extending the deadline for renewal of driver's licenses to June 30, 2021.

With this order, Governor Kelly extends a previous provision that allows Kansans 21 to 64 years of age to renew online. By statute, the restriction is 21 to 54 years old.

"As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, it is clear that we must extend this provision to continue protecting Kansans' health and safety," Governor Laura Kelly said. "I encourage all Kansans eligible to take advantage of the opportunity for online license renewal to protect themselves and their communities from the spread of the virus."

In addition to Executive Order 20-70, the Kansas Department of Revenue is removing service fees for all Kansans who use iKan to renew their

license. These fees are generated to keep the online renewal system running but will be covered by COVID-19 funding to encourage the use of online renewals. This, in turn, assists in combatting community spread of the disease.

"By waiving the service fees, we hope Kansas drivers see this as an opportunity to experience a safe alternative to visiting our offices in person," Kansas Department of Revenue Secretary Mark Burghart said. "This helps our customers not see delays in service and our staff to continue regular operations in a health-conscious manner."

The iKan program can be utilized by downloading the app from Apple App or Google Play stores on mobile devices or by visiting iKan.ks.gov. Even with the temporary removal of some restrictions, by statute, other restrictions apply.

BBB tips for holiday returns and exchanges

Holiday returns aren't easy! And we don't mean the part where you explain to your mother why you returned the sweater she gave you.

Stores are not legally required to accept exchanges or give refunds, unless the merchandise was defective or misrepresented. While most retailers do offer refund and exchange programs, policies vary greatly from one store to another. Fortunately for shoppers, one positive outcome of the COVID-19 pandemic is that many retailers have become more lenient in their return policies. But be sure to double check policies this holiday season, even if you are familiar with the brand.

The following tips should help to make your holiday returns run more smoothly:

Get to know store policies.

Before you make a purchase, find out if the store has a return policy and, if so, how it works. Understand that many retailers have changed their policies for the holiday season and the COVID-19 pandemic. If the store does allow returns or exchanges, find out if you will need to pay a restock fee. Ask the seller if they offer cash refunds, exchanges, or only store credit. Store policies are usually posted at the check-out counter or printed on the back of receipts.

Understand online store return policies. If you are shopping online, search for the seller's return policy and read it through before clicking "buy." Find out if they accept returns or exchanges, and who pays the shipping when an item is returned. In some cases, you can save on shipping fees by returning an online purchase to the local

brick-and-mortar store.

Get the details on a product's warranty. Most electronics and home appliances come with warranties that are to be fulfilled with the manufacturer, not the retailer. Find out how returns and repairs are handled if an item stops working or needs replacement parts. Will the retailer ship the item to the manufacturer for you? Or will you need to deal with the manufacturer directly? Knowing the answers will leave you well-prepared for any future issues.

Keep your receipt and packaging. Most stores will only accept returns and exchanges if you can present the item with its receipt and original packaging. Always include a gift receipt with items you give, and hold on to any gift receipts you receive.

Bring your ID. To avoid holiday return scams, many

stores ask to see your ID when you return an item. Sometimes retailers require you bring your ID and the original form of payment. If this is the policy of the store where your gift is from, you may need the assistance of the gift giver in order to be reimbursed.

Make returns in a timely fashion. Almost all return policies are valid during a specific time period. Some stores modify their return period during the holidays, so don't risk missing your chance to make your return. Take the item back to the store without delay.



Vacated

Continued from Page 1

uncertainty if he will pause federal executions once he takes office.

Montgomery is currently located at the Federal Correctional Complex, in Terre Haute, Ind.

In December 2004, Montgomery went to the home of Bobbi Jo Stinnett, 23, Skidmore, Mo., under the pretense of purchasing a dog. Montgomery strangled Stinnett, who was eight months pregnant at the time, and removed the fetus with a kitchen knife. Montgomery returned to Melvern with the infant, telling friends and family she was the child's mother.

On Oct. 22, 2007, a federal court jury deliberated for only four hours before finding Montgomery guilty of the charges. Montgomery's defense team unsuccessfully tried to convince the jury that Montgomery was delusional at the time of the slaying, arguing she suffered from pseudocyesis, the delusional belief that she was pregnant, and post-traumatic stress disorder. The defense reported Montgomery suffered from years of abuse as a child and young woman, as a victim of

sex-trafficking, incest and gang rape. The defense admitted she committed the crime but she did not fit the legal description of insanity.

The prosecution believed Montgomery's intentions were planned and deliberate. They believed she was driven by fear that her ex-husband, Carl Bowman, would expose her lies of being pregnant due to the fact she had been sterilized years earlier.

After a little more than four days of deliberation, jurors returned to the courtroom Oct. 26, 2007 in unanimous agreement that she receive the death penalty.

"In the end, we're confident that justice has been served," said U.S. Attorney John Wood, at the time of the jury's recommended sentence. "I know nothing we can do that can erase the pain the family is feeling. I only hope that they find some measure of justice in this outcome."

April 4, 2008 a federal judge upheld the jury's death penalty recommendation.

Montgomery is the only woman on federal death row. Montgomery's execution would be the first federal execution of a woman since 1953. At that time, Bonnie Heady was killed in the gas chamber for the kidnapping and murder of a six year-old boy at Kansas City, Mo.



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In these troubling times, take comfort that infection control measures at The Meadows recently earned a deficiency-free state survey.

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