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New York -- NYSID Launches Fingerprinting System: EAST [12/08/09]

The New York State Insurance Department will initiate mandatory fingerprinting as a part of its system for licensing certain professionals beginning next Tuesday.

The department said in an announcement the requirement is limited to new licenses issued to:

- Insurance company officers and directors.
- Public and independent insurance adjusters.
- Professional bail bondsmen.
- Viatical settlement brokers.

The department next Tuesday is scrapping its paper fingerprint cards for in-state residents, although paper fingerprinting will continue for out-of-state applications.

"Electronic fingerprinting will streamline the processing of background checks and enhance the Insurance Department's ability to issue licenses more quickly," New York Insurance Superintendent James Wrynn said in a statement.

"Electronic fingerprinting is now available at nearly 100 locations across the state, so it will be convenient for applicants to have their fingerprints taken," he said.

The state Division of Criminal Justice Services selected L-1 Identity Solutions as a vendor to make electronic fingerprinting available. Applicants may make appointments to be processed for electronic fingerprinting by using the company's website, <http://www.L1ID.com>, or by calling L-1 Enrollment Services at 877-472-6915, NYSID said.

New York joins a number of states that have adopted the national licensing uniformity standard used by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC).

The Insurance Department has called for the New York Legislature to require insurance agents and brokers to submit fingerprints for background checks as part of their licensing process.

Source: New York Insurance Department

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