



## American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators

---

### Facial Recognition Overview

Many jurisdictions require neutral expression policies for identification photos, which mean that customers cannot smile in their identification photos. These policies vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, but the neutral expression is necessary in order for many jurisdictions' facial recognition technologies to work accurately.

- Facial recognition is essential in verifying identity and ensuring people are who they claim to be. The technology has done a lot to prevent people from defrauding DMVs and has prevented people from trying to “outrun” their previous driving record. Using facial recognition protects the identities of law-abiding citizens.
- Facial recognition is not a uniform technology – some jurisdictions use methods that only rely on portions of the face (i.e. around the eyes) for identification, while others use many parts of the face for identification. Some of our members are using technology where the position of the mouth is important for identification, and so it's necessary to have people keep a neutral expression in their photos. Some, not all, of the facial recognition technologies can be adversely impacted if a person's expression is anything other than neutral. In other words, smiling could potentially affect the accuracy of the technology. While we would like to see uniform technology used among our members, that isn't the case.
- Facial recognition technology that includes the whole face would theoretically be more effective, however, both full face and partial face recognition technology are effective and help DMVs have more confidence in confirming identity and preventing fraud.
- Passport standards call for neutral expressions – this is a commonly, generally accepted practice.

### Relevant AAMVA Experts

- **Geoff Slagle, Director of Identity Management**

As the Director of Identity Management, Slagle's expertise includes, but is not limited to, identification security and the technologies that relate to safe and secure IDs. Slagle is instrumental in guiding the groups within AAMVA that focus on identity security, including AAMVA's Card Design Standard Committee. He helped lead that group in the creation of the 2012 Card Design Standard, which provides for the design of driver licenses and identification cards aimed at improving the security of the DL/ID cards as well as the level of interoperability among cards issued by all North American jurisdictions. Slagle is also AAMVA staff liaison to our Electronic Identity or eID Working Group, which is undertaking the task of addressing how virtual identity will be impacting our members' business and service processes. For more about Geoff Slagle, visit <http://www.movemag.org/profiles/114-aamva-s-meet-the-experts-geoff-slagle.html>.

**For press inquiries, contact Claire O'Brien, Marketing Coordinator, at 703-908-2955 or [cobrien@aamva.org](mailto:cobrien@aamva.org).**

---

An International Safety Association of Motor Vehicle and Law Enforcement Administrators

4301 Wilson Blvd, Suite 400 • Arlington, VA 22203 • Tel 703.522.4200 • Fax 703.522.1553  
[www.aamva.org](http://www.aamva.org)