



# Falmouth Police Department

2 Marshall Drive  
Falmouth, ME 04105  
Tel. (207) 781-2300

TTY (207) 781-4154 Fax (207) 781-3448  
E-mail: [police@falmouthme.org](mailto:police@falmouthme.org)

John F. Kilbride  
Chief of Police

Frank H. Soule, III  
Lieutenant

Jeffrey A. Pardue  
Lieutenant

To: Falmouth Residents

From: Chief John F. Kilbride

Date: March 17, 2020

Subject: Enforcement of Recently Expired Registration Plates, including 14-day Temporary Registrations

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Dear Falmouth Residents,

In an effort to protect the community and slow the spread of COVID-19, Falmouth Town Hall has temporarily closed. While most services offered at Town Hall can be completed online, we recognize that residents do not have the ability to register a new vehicle within the 14-day temporary registration period.

Maine law requires that new vehicles be registered within 14 days and describes the penalty for operating a vehicle with an expired temporary registration plate.

Please allow this letter to serve as documentation that you, despite your best efforts, have been unable to register your new vehicle with the Town of Falmouth, beginning on Thursday, March 12, 2020. For those who are simply seeking to renew an already existing motor vehicle registration, please do so by utilizing the *Rapid Renewal* service on the State of Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles website.

In recognition of these unprecedented circumstances, including the current State of Emergency declaration, the Falmouth Police Department has chosen to exercise its enforcement discretion and will not cite motorists for a violation of 29-A §351, Section 5, Expiration of 14-day Temporary Registration Plate until further notice.

Although the Falmouth Police Department cannot account for, or dictate, the discretionary enforcement actions of other state, county and/or local law enforcement officials, we trust that this letter provides sufficient evidence that the operator of a vehicle displaying expired temporary registration plates has made a good faith effort to register their vehicle unsuccessfully. Due to circumstances outside of the vehicle owner's control, we respectfully request leniency be granted for this violation of Maine law.

The Town of Falmouth is committed to the safety of its residents, creating policies and practices as recommended by the CDC to limit the spread of COVID-19, and

maintaining a healthy work environment for first responders and front-line employees. We appreciate the hardships experienced by our residents during this pandemic and assure you that the Falmouth Police Department will be there if you experience a law enforcement need.

Sincerely,

Chief John F. Kilbride  
Falmouth Police Department