

LICENSED LENDER VERIFICATION CHECKLIST

ConfidenceBuildings.com

· [Emergency Borrowing Blueprint \(2026 Complete Guide\)](#)

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11 Steps to Find a Real Lender & Avoid Scams

Name: _____ Date: _____ ||
Lender Name: _____ State: _____ ||

STEP 1: Check if payday loans are legal in your state || 13
states + DC = ILLEGAL (red on map). If you live in one, || stop — any
"payday loan" you find is a scam. ||
|| My state: _____ Legal Illegal Rate caps

STEP 2: Find lender's legal business name || Look in
website footer or app "About" section. || Brand name ≠ legal name.
|| Example: "Speedy Cash" = "QC Financial Services, Inc." ||
|| Legal name found: _____

STEP 3: Search NMLS Consumer Access || Go to:
nmlsconsumeraccess.org || Type the legal business
name into search. ||
Found in NMLS Not found → go to Step 5

□ **STEP 4: Verify 3 things in NMLS**

- Status = "ACTIVE" (not Inactive or Revoked)
 - Your state listed under "Licensed to do business in:"
 - Type = "Payday Lender" or "Consumer Loan Company"
- Status: _____ Licensed in my state? □ Yes □ No

□ **STEP 5: If not in NMLS, check state regulator database**

Visit your state banking department website.

Search their "Licensed Lenders" database.

- Found in state database □ NOT FOUND → STOP!

If not in either database, lender is operating ILLEGALLY.

□ **STEP 6: Confirm it's a DIRECT LENDER, not a broker**

Look for fine print:

✗ "We are not a lender" = BROKER → close the tab

✗ "We connect you with lenders" = BROKER

✗ "Network of partners" = BROKER

✓ No such language = likely direct lender

- Direct Lender □ Broker (STOP)

□ **STEP 7: Check for upfront fees**

Legitimate lenders NEVER charge before funding.

Any request for:

✗ "Processing fee" ✗ "Insurance" ✗ "Application fee" ✗ "Tax"

✗ "Good faith deposit" = 100% SCAM

- No upfront fees requested □ Upfront fee requested (STOP)

□ **STEP 8: Review app permissions**

Legitimate lender ONLY needs:

- ✓ Camera (for ID verification)
- ✓ Location
- ✓ Bank login (via secure service like Plaid)

RED FLAGS (scam/data harvesters):

✗ Contacts access ✗ Photo gallery ✗ SMS ✗ Call logs

- Safe permissions only
- Red flags present (STOP)

□ **STEP 9: Verify contact information**

✓ Physical address found: _____

✓ Working customer service phone: _____

✓ Real email: _____

✗ Only WhatsApp/Telegram = SCAM ✗ Only contact form = SUSPICIOUS

□ **STEP 10: Calculate total repayment**

Standard fee: \$15–20 per \$100 borrowed.

Example: \$500 loan × \$15/\$100 = \$75 fee → total \$575

Amount to borrow: \$_____ Fee quoted: \$_____ per \$100

Total repayment: \$_____ □ Total shown before signing □ Hidden fees

□ **STEP 11: Understand "instant funding" reality**

□ Applied before cutoff time (usually 10:30 AM CT)

□ Applied on weekend/holiday → next business day

□ "Money in 5 minutes" promised = rushing you past fine print

Expected funding date: _____

5 RED FLAGS

Stop Immediately If You See These

- UPFRONT FEE — Any payment before funding = 100% scam
- CONTACTS ACCESS — Asking for phonebook = data harvester
- NO NMLS RECORD — Not in licensing database = illegal
- "WE'RE NOT A LENDER" — That's a broker selling your data
- WHATSAPP ONLY — No real customer service = scammer

STATE REGULATOR VERIFICATION LINKS

California: dfpi.ca.gov

Texas: occc.texas.gov

Florida: flofr.gov

New York: dfs.ny.gov

Find your state: consumerfinance.gov/ask-cfpb/

FINAL VERDICT:

- SAFE TO PROCEED – All 11 steps verified
- SCAM DETECTED – Do not engage, report to FTC

Report scams: reportfraud.ftc.gov

File complaint: consumerfinance.gov/complaint

Notes:

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