

The mission of the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is to protect and serve Texas.

Driver licenses (DL) and identification cards (ID) issued by the DPS Driver License Division are a key link to public safety, privacy, and national security. Many medical and financial institutions, retailers, governmental entities, and other various organizations accept a state-issued DL and ID for purposes of confirming your identity so you have access to the services you need.

To reduce your exposure to identity theft and fraud, ensuring the validity of the information and documentation you provide for the issuance of your DL or ID is a very important part of the application process. With this in mind, DPS utilizes a nationally recognized DL and ID issuance process, which involves verifying your identity, Texas residency, and U.S. Citizenship or lawful presence (the legal authorization to reside in this country.)

You will find the information you need to know about Texas' DL/ID application process here in this brochure. If you need more information on the issuance process, or are applying for a Commercial Driver License, or are under the age of 25, visit our website at www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense for additional requirements.

Satisfy the following requirements, and you'll be ready to apply for your Texas DL or ID card!

Proof of U.S. Citizenship or Lawful Presence

If you are a U.S. citizen, lawful permanent resident (immigrant), refugee, asylee, or non-immigrant, you must provide proof of your lawful presence in the United States. Most documents will be verified through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's SAVE Program. Verification is often instantaneous, but when it is not, receipt of the DL/ID may be delayed for up to 30 days.

Examples of documents to verify lawful presence include:

- Original or certified copy of a birth certificate issued by a State Bureau of Vital Statistics or equivalent agency from a U.S. state, a U.S. territory or the District of Columbia
- Valid, unexpired U.S. passport book or U.S. passport card

- U.S. Citizenship Certificate or Certificate of Naturalization with identifiable photo (N-550, N-560, N-561, N-570 or N-578)
- U.S. citizen Identification card (I-179 or I-197)
- Original or certified copy of a U.S. Department of State issued Consular Report of Birth Abroad (DS-1350, FS-240, or FS-545)
- Valid, unexpired Permanent Resident card (I-551)
- Valid, unexpired U.S. passport book or U.S. passport card stating, 'The Bearer is a U.S. National and not a U.S. Citizen'
- Unexpired employment authorization document (EAD), (I-766)
- Machine Readable Immigrant Visa with temporary I-551 language and an Alien Documentation, Identification and Telecommunications System (ADIT) stamp



Proof of Identity

Photo IDs issued by government agencies with the applicants full name and date of birth are considered primary documents. Simply show one from the list below to prove your identity. All documents must be verifiable.

Documents must be original or a copy certified by the issuing agency. No photocopies are accepted.

Primary Identification Documents

- Photo Texas DL or ID, unexpired or expired within the last two years
- Valid, unexpired U.S. passport book or U.S. passport card
- U.S. Citizenship Certificate or Certificate of Naturalization with identifiable photo (N-550, N-560, N-561, N-570, or N-578)
- Unexpired U.S. military photo ID card for active duty, reserve or retired personnel
- Unexpired Department of Homeland Security (DHS) or U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) photo ID
Examples include:
 - ◇ U.S. citizen Identification card (I-179 or I-197)
 - ◇ Permanent Resident card (I-551)
 - ◇ Machine-Readable Immigrant Visa (MRIV) with temporary I-551 language and ADIT stamp
 - ◇ Employment Authorization card (I-766)
 - ◇ Unexpired U.S. travel document (I-327 or I-571)

- ◇ Advance parole document with photo (I-512 or I-512L)
- ◇ I-94 stamped "Sec. 208 Asylee" with photo
- ◇ I-94 stamped "Sec. 207 Refugee" with photo
- ◇ Valid refugee travel letter with photo and stamped by US Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
- ◇ American Indian card (I-872)
- ◇ Northern Mariana card (I-873)
- Valid, unexpired foreign passport with visa* attached and a valid I-94

* Citizens of the Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and certain Canadian non-immigrants are not required to obtain a visa to enter the USA. The visa requirement for these applicants will be waived.

If you cannot show a document from the Primary Identification Documents list, you can present either two documents from the Secondary Identification Documents list below *or* one document from the Secondary Identification Documents list *and* two documents from the Supporting Identification Documents list below.

Secondary Identification Documents

- Original or certified copy of a birth certificate issued by a State Bureau of Vital Statistics or equivalent agency from a U.S. state, a U.S. territory, the District of Columbia or a Canadian province
- Original or certified copy of a U.S. Department of State issued Consular Report of Birth Abroad (DS-1350, FS-240 or FS-545)
- Original or certified copy of a court order with name and date of birth indicating an official change of name and/or gender from a U.S. state, a U.S. territory, the District of Columbia, or a Canadian province

Supporting Identification Documents

- Temporary receipt for a Texas DL or ID (actual receipt)
- Expired Texas DL or ID (expired more than two years—actual card)
- DL or ID issued by another U.S. state, U.S. territory, District of Columbia, or Canadian province (unexpired or within two years of the expiration date - actual card)†
- ID card issued by government agency†
- Pilot's license (actual card)†
- Concealed handgun license or license to carry (actual card)†

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Proof of Residency in Texas

When applying for your first Texas driver license (DL) or identification card (ID), you must provide documents to prove you have lived in Texas for at least 30 days. If you are surrendering a valid, unexpired driver license from another state, you must still prove your Texas residency, but the 30-day requirement is waived. Simply provide two of the following documents that contain the same name and Texas residential/physical address.

- Current deed, mortgage, monthly mortgage statement, mortgage payment booklet, or a residential rental/lease
- Current homeowners' or renters' insurance policy, statement or card
- Utility or residential service bill dated within 90 days of the application date. Examples include: electric, water, gas, Internet, cable, streaming services, lawn service and cellular telephone bills
- Medical or health card
- Valid, unexpired registration: Texas voter registration card, motor vehicle registration or title, boat registration or title
- Current automobile insurance policy, statement or card
- Current automobile payment booklet or statement
- Texas high school, college, or university report card or transcript for the current school year
- Preprinted paycheck or pay stub dated within 90 days of the application date
- Pre-printed W-2, 1099 or 1098 tax form from an employer, government or financial entity for the most recent tax year
- Mail or printed electronic statements from a financial institution; including checking, savings, investment account, or credit card statements dated within 90 days of the application date
- Mail or printed electronic statements from a federal, state, county, or city government agency dated within 90 days of the application date
- Current documents issued by the U.S. Military or Veterans Administration indicating residential address
- Selective Service card
- Valid, unexpired concealed handgun license or license to carry
- TDCJ document indicating recent release or parole

Both documents may be from the same source if the source is a local governmental entity that provides multiple residential services. You cannot show mail that is addressed to you with a forwarding address label or an adhesive address label on the envelope. If you are unable to provide two documents from the list, you may submit a Texas residency affidavit from someone who resides at the same address along with proper identification and two documents for proof of residency.

Note: ONLY proof of residency documents may be photocopies. For affidavit requirements, visit us at www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/ResidencyReqNonCDL.htm or ask a driver license office employee.



Proof of Social Security Number

If you are applying for a DL or ID, you must provide documents to verify your complete Social Security Number (SSN).[‡]

Examples of documents to verify your SSN include:

- Social Security Card
- W-2
- SSA-1099 Form
- A non-SSA-1099 form
- Pay stub with the applicant's name and SSN

If you are unable to provide one of the above documents, the following can be accepted:

- Military identification (active, reserve, retired or dependent status)
- Certificate of release or Discharge of Active Duty (DD-214)
- Certified college/university transcript designating number as SSN
- Documents such as health insurance cards, Veterans Administration cards, and pilot's licenses with identifiable SSN may be accepted

[‡] According to state and federal law, DPS collects and uses SSN information for identification purposes. This information is released to government agencies only for purposes authorized by the Texas Transportation Code.



Texas Vehicle Registration and Proof of Insurance

- Proof of Insurance for each vehicle you own. (All first-time applicants)
- Evidence of Texas Vehicle Registration for each vehicle you own*. (New Residents who are surrendering an out-of-state driver license only)

*If you do not own a vehicle, you will sign a statement affirming this.

Moving to Texas

Once you move to Texas, you can continue driving with your valid, unexpired driver license from another state or country for up to 90 days. This will provide you with the opportunity to visit your local driver license office at your convenience within those 90 days to obtain your Texas driver license. Continuing to drive in Texas beyond the 90 days without a Texas driver license is unlawful, and you can be given a citation.

To obtain your Texas driver license, you will be required to apply in person at your local driver license office. Using the information found within this brochure, collect the required documents and bring them with you when you visit your local driver license office. All driver license office services require an appointment. Visit www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/appointments.htm to review important information and to schedule your appointment.

Additional information on applying for a Texas driver license, including the ability to print a customized checklist, may be found at www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/ApplyforLicense.htm.



Document Checklist



Proof of U.S. Citizenship or Lawful Presence



Proof of Residency in Texas



Proof of Identity



Proof of Social Security Number



Texas Vehicle Registration and Proof of Insurance

For more information, go online to: www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense