Proof of Residency in Texas

When applying for your first Texas driver license or identification card, 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 lease
- Current homeowners' or renters' insurance policy or statement
- Electric, water, natural gas, satellite television, cable television, or non-cellular telephone statement dated within 90 days of the application date
- Medical or health card
- Valid, unexpired registration: Texas voter registration card, motor vehicle registration or title, boat registration or title
- Current automobile insurance policy or statement
- Current automobile payment booklet
- 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
- W-2 or 1099 tax form from the current year
- Mail from a financial institution; including checking, savings, investment account, or credit card statements dated within 90 days of the application date
- Mail from a federal, state, county, or city government agency dated within 90 days of the application date
- Current documents issued by the US Military indicating residential address
- Selective Service card
- Concealed handgun license
- TDCJ document indicating recent release or parole
- Current Form DS-2019, I-20, or a document issued by USCIS

Both documents cannot be from the same source.

For example, you cannot show a water bill and a gas bill from the same utility company, and 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.

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 driver license, you must provide your Social Security Number (SSN).‡ If you are applying for an ID card, providing your SSN is voluntary.

Examples of documents to verify your SSN include:

- Social Security card (actual card)
- W-2 or 1099 tax form
- Pay stub with preprinted name and SSN
- Military ID with preprinted SSN (active and reserve personnel only)
- Dependent military ID with preprinted SSN
- Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD-214) from the US Department of Defense
- Veterans Administration card with preprinted SSN
- Peace officer's license, Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE)
- Pilot's license with preprinted SSN
- Health card, Medicare or Medicaid card with SSN
- Certified college/university transcript with SSN

‡ 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.

Proof of Vehicle Insurance

All original applicants must provide evidence of financial responsibility for each vehicle owned by you or a statement affirming that you do not own a motor vehicle.

For more information, go online to: www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense or visit us at a driver license office near you.

Moving to Texas

An individual can legally drive with a valid, unexpired driver license from another state or country for up to 90 days after moving to Texas. However, you must apply in person within those 90 days to continue driving legally, and you will be required by law to surrender your unexpired driver license issued by another state or Canadian province to DPS.

When transferring an Out-of-State driver license to Texas, you must provide proof of vehicle registration ONLY if the vehicle is registered under your name and is in the state of Texas. Evidence of financial responsibility for each vehicle owned by you or a statement affirming that you do not own a motor vehicle is also required.

ID cards issued from another US state, US territory or foreign country are valid in Texas until they expire.

Individuals who are applying for a Texas driver license or ID card must meet all licensing and/or identification requirements. For more information, go online to: www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense or visit us at a driver license office near you.

Document Checklist

- Proof of Vehicle Insurance
- Proof of US Citizenship or Lawful Presence
- Proof of Identity
- Proof of Residency in Texas
- Proof of Social Security Number

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Texas Driver License or Identification Document Requirements

What it Takes to Apply for a DL or ID Card

DRIVER LICENSE DIVISION

Creating a faster, easier, friendlier driver license experience and a safer Texas

www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense

The mission of the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is to protect and serve Texas. Driver licenses and identification cards issued by DPS Driver License Division (DLD) are a key link to public safety, privacy, and national security.

For the safety, security, and peace of mind of Texas residents, DPS must produce a recognizably reliable source of identification and also reduce exposure to identity theft and fraud. A driver license or identification card is often used by financial institutions, retailers, law enforcement, and other organizations to establish the cardholder's identity.

As a result, DPS has established several application requirements meant to address issues of fraud and to protect the integrity of a driver license or identification card issued by DPS. These involve verifying your identity and residency and US citizenship or lawful presence (the legal authorization to reside in this country).

If you are applying for a Commercial Driver License (CDL) or if you are under age 25, you must satisfy different requirements when applying for a Texas driver license or identification card. For more information, go online to www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense or visit us at a driver license office near you.

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

Proof of US Citizenship or Lawful Presence

If you are a US 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 US Department of Homeland Security's SAVE Program. Verification through SAVE 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:

- Birth certificate or birth record issued by the appropriate State Bureau of Vital Statistics or equivalent agency from a US state or local government, a US territory, or the District of Columbia
- US passport book or passport card
- US Citizenship Certificate or Certificate of Naturalization (N-550, N-560, N-561, N-570, or N-578)
- US citizen Identification card (I-179 or I-197)
- US Department of State Certificate of Birth Abroad issued to US citizens born abroad (Form FS-240, DS-1350, or FS-545)
- Permanent Resident card (I-551)
- Passport or I-94 stamped "Approved I-551" or "Processed for I-551"
- Employment Authorization card (I-766)
- US travel document (I-327 or I-571)
- I-94 stamped "Sec. 208 Asylee" or "Sec. 207 Refugee"
- Machine Readable Immigrant Visa with temporary I-551 language and ADIT stamp
- Temporary I-551 stamp in foreign passport
- DS-2019 exchange visitor (J-1) certificate
- I-20 Non-immigrant student (F-1)
- Student documents with Student Exchange and Visitor Information System (SEVIS) number
- Non-student documents with alien number or I-94 number

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.

Primary Identification Documents

- Texas DL or photo ID within two years of expiration
- Unexpired US passport book or passport card
- US Citizenship Certificate or Certificate of Naturalization with identifiable photo (N-550, N-560, N-561, N-570, or N-578)
- Unexpired US military photo ID card for active duty, reserve, or retired personnel
- Unexpired Department of Homeland Security (DHS) or United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) photo ID. Examples include:
  - US citizen Identification card (I-179 or I-197)
  - Permanent Resident card (I-551)
  - Machine-Readable Immigrant Visa (MRIV) with temporary I-551 language and Alien Documentation, Identification and Telecommunications System (ADIT) stamp
  - Employment Authorization card (I-766)
  - US 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)
- Foreign passport, visa* (valid or expired), and 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.

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

Secondary Identification Documents

- Original or certified copy of a birth certificate or birth record issued by the appropriate State Bureau of Vital Statistics or equivalent agency from a US state or local government, a US territory, the District of Columbia, or a Canadian province
- Original or certified copy of the US Department of State Certificate of Birth Abroad issued to US citizens born abroad (Form FS-240, DS-1350, or FS-545)
- Original or certified copy of the court order with name and date of birth indicating an official change of name and/or gender from a US state, a US 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 US state, US 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 (actual card)†
- Voter registration card (actual card)†
- Professional license issued by Texas state agency
- W-2 or 1099 form
- School records (e.g. report cards, photo ID cards, etc.)†
- Military records (e.g., Form DD-214)
- Unexpired US military dependent ID card (actual card)
- Veteran Health Identification card (VHIC—actual card)
- Selective Service card (actual card)
- Original or certified copy of a marriage certificate or divorce decree (US jurisdiction or foreign jurisdiction; if not in English, a certified translation must accompany it)
- Any insurance policy (valid continuously for the past two years)
- Current Texas motor vehicle registration or title (TRC 521.144)
- Current Texas boat registration or title
- Hospital-issued birth record†
- Medicare or Medicaid card (actual card)
- Immunization records†
- Unexpired foreign passport
- A valid Consular document issued by a state or national government
- Federal parole or release certificate
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) parole or mandatory release certificate
- Texas inmate ID card or similar form of ID issued by TDCJ
- Federal inmate ID card
- Tribal membership card from a federally recognized tribe
- Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB)
- Social Security card (actual card)

† Document must be issued by an institution, entity or government agency from a US state, a US territory, the District of Columbia, or a Canadian province.

Name Change Documents

Any documents you bring to prove your identity must show the same name and date of birth. If not, you must present supporting documents—such as a marriage certificate, divorce decree, or court-ordered name change—to confirm a name change, inconsistent information, or incomplete names and/or dates of birth.