

Moving to Texas?

updated 10/28/2009

New residents moving into Texas, who have a valid driver license from their home state, have 90 days after entry into the state to secure a Texas driver license. To apply for a Texas driver license, applicants will be required to:

Applicants age 18 and over with a VALID out-of-state driver license **(Select the highlighted links to receive additional information for each requirement listed below.)**

- Provide proof of [Identity](#).
- Provide proof of [Social Security Number](#).
- Provide proof of [Texas vehicle registration](#) and [proof of liability insurance](#) on **all** vehicles owned.
- Complete required forms available at any [Texas Driver License office](#).
- Pay the [required fee](#).
- Pass a vision exam.
- If you have a VALID out-of-state license in your possession, it must be surrendered at the driver license office.

NOTE: If you have never been licensed or have an EXPIRED out-of-state license, you will be required to pass both the written and driving exams, in addition to a vision test.

Driver License

First Time Age 18 and Over

1) I am new to Texas, what do I need to do in order to get a Texas license?

A new resident moving into Texas who has a valid driver license from his home state, has 30 days after entry into the state to secure a Texas driver license. In addition to testing, all first time original applicants must visit a [Texas Driver License office](#) and present and do the following: Texas Transportation Code 521.029.

New residents previously licensed in another state:

- Proof of [Identity](#). 37 Texas Administrative Code 15.24.
- Proof of [Social Security Number](#). 37 Texas Administrative Code 15.42, Texas Transportation Code 521.044.
- Proof of Texas vehicle registration and liability insurance, if you own a vehicle. Texas Transportation Code 521.143.
- Complete required forms available at any [Texas Driver License office](#).
- Pay the [required fee](#). 37 Texas Administrative Code 15.40, Texas Transportation Code 521.421.
- Pass the vision exam. 37 Texas Administrative Code 15.51, Texas Transportation Code 521.161.
- Application must include photograph and thumbprints; however, thumbprints are not included on the driver license. 37 Texas Administrative Code 15.44, 37 Texas Administrative Code 15.45, Texas Transportation Code 521.142.
- If you have a VALID out-of-state license in your possession, please bring it to the driver license office to surrender. Texas Transportation Code 521.182.

NOTE: If you have an EXPIRED out-of-state license, you will be required to pass both the written and driving* exams, in addition to a vision test.

* Applicant must provide vehicle.

Identification Requirements for a Texas Driver License or Identification Certificate

A driver license is no longer used solely as a document demonstrating authorization to drive. The driver license or identification certificates are the nationally accepted form of identification and both are used daily to establish identity at airports, banks, when writing checks, voting, or applying for governmental aid. Due to their extensive use as a person's primary source of identity the department has the responsibility to correctly determine an applicant's identity.

All original applicants for a Texas driver license or identification certificate must present proof of identity satisfactory to the department. **(All applicants for a driver license must also provide proof of their social security number)**. All documents must be verifiable by the source that issued the document.

There are three categories of documents that may be presented to establish proof of identity. Every original applicant must present:

- one piece of primary identification; or
- one piece of secondary identification plus two pieces of support identification; or
- two pieces of secondary identification.

Primary Identification:

These items are complete within themselves and require no supporting instruments: These documents must contain the applicant's complete name and full date of birth.

Secondary Identification:

These items are recorded governmental documents (United States, one of the fifty states, a United States territory, District of Columbia, or Canadian province).

Supporting Identification:

These items consist of other records or documents that aid examining personnel in establishing the identity of the applicant. The following items are not all inclusive. The examining or supervisory personnel may determine that an unlisted document meets the department's needs in establishing identity.

PRIMARY	SECONDARY	SUPPORTING*
MUST INCLUDE PHOTO, FULL NAME AND DOB	RECORDED US GOVERNMENTAL DOCUMENTS (INCLUDES NAME & DOB)	ADDITIONAL RECORDS AND DOCUMENTS THAT AID IN ESTABLISHING IDENTITY
Accepted for Identification Without additional documentation	An applicant must present one secondary and two supporting or two secondary documents to establish identity	
<p>Texas driver license (DL) or identification certificate (ID) with photo within two-years of expiration date.</p> <p>Unexpired United States passport</p> <p>United States Citizenship Certificate or Certificate of Naturalization with identifiable photo (N-560, N-561, N-645, N-550, N-55G, N-570 or N-578)</p> <p>Unexpired Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS) or US Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services document issued for a period of at least one year and must be valid for no less than six (6) months from the date presented to the department with a completed application. The document must contain verifiable data and identifiable photo, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Citizen Identification Card (I-179 or I-197) • Resident Alien Card (I-551) • Temporary Resident 	<p>Original or certified copy of a birth certificate issued by the appropriate State Bureau of Vital Statistics or equivalent agency. (U.S. Territory or the District of Columbia or Canadian province).</p> <p>Original or certified copy of United States Department of State Certification of Birth (issued to United States citizens born abroad) (Form FS-240, DS-1350, or FS-545).</p> <p>Original or certified copy of court order with name and date of birth (DOB) indicating an official change of name and/or gender from a US state, US Territory or the District of Columbia or Canadian province.</p>	<p>School records</p> <p>Insurance policy (valid continuously for the past two years)</p> <p>Vehicle title</p> <p>Military records (Form DD 214)</p> <p>Unexpired military dependant identification card (actual card)</p> <p>Original or certified copy of marriage license or divorce decree</p> <p>Voter registration card (actual card)</p> <p>Social Security card (actual card)</p> <p>Pilot's license (actual card)</p> <p>Concealed handgun license</p>

<p>Identification Card (I-688)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment Authorization Card (I-688A, I-688B or I-766) <p>A Foreign Passport with a visa (valid or expired) and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Form I-94 with status code F1, F2, M1, or M2, an unexpired Form I-20, and evidence of current enrollment in an educational institution located in Texas or sponsorship in a visiting worker program or, Form I-94 with status code J-1 or J-2 and an unexpired Form IAP-66 or Form DS-2019 or, Unexpired Form I-94 with a defined expiration date: Form I-94 must have been issued for a period of at least one year and have at least six months validity remaining. <p>Unexpired United States military ID card for active duty, reserve or retired personnel with identifiable photo.</p>		<p>(actual card)</p> <p>Temporary receipt for a Texas Driver License or identification certificate (actual receipt)</p> <p>Unexpired photo DL or photo ID issued by a US state, US territory, the District of Columbia, or Canadian province (actual card)</p> <p>Expired DL or ID issued by another US state, US territory, the District of Columbia or Canadian province that is within two years of the expiration date(actual card)</p> <p>A consular document issued by a state or national government (actual document)</p> <p>Texas Inmate ID card issued by TDCJ</p>
<p>* Items in the supporting category are not all inclusive. Supervisory personnel may determine that an unlisted document meets the department's needs in establishing identity in the supporting category only.</p> <p>Additional documentation may be required by DL personnel to verify conflicting information, incomplete names and DOB.</p> <p>Texas Administrative Code Title 37, Part 1, Chapter 15, Subchapter B can be referenced at http://info.sos.tx.us.</p> <p>Revised 05/20/08</p>		