

Driver's Licenses for All



The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is now accepting applications for driver's licenses from all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status! If you have questions about the new driver's licenses law, you can call the New Americans Hotline at 1-800-566-7636.

More information about how to apply is available at dmv.ny.gov.

Who can benefit?

16+

Any New Yorker, 16 years old and above, can apply for a standard, non-commercial driver's license or learner permit, regardless of immigration status.

What documents are accepted?



Many different types of documents are accepted. All applicants must provide 6 points worth of documents that prove identity, and also prove date of birth and residency. If you have never been issued a Social Security Number, you must sign an affidavit stating that and bring it with you when you apply.

Some examples (**not a complete list**) of documents that are accepted include:

Worth 1 Point each	Worth 4 Points each
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDNYC Also counts as proof of residency Foreign School Report Card or School Record* *2 points with photo Tax Documents Also counts as proof of residency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid Consular ID Also counts as proof of age Valid Foreign passport Also counts as proof of age Foreign Driver's License (Valid or Expired up to 24 months) Also counts as proof of age

Unless explicitly noted, DMV does not accept expired documents.

The NYS DMV [has a tool online](https://dmv.ny.gov) to help you determine what documents you should bring for your application for a driver's license or a learner permit. Go to dmv.ny.gov to learn more.

How do I apply?

Once you collect your original documents, bring them with you to the DMV office of your choice. The DMV office can help you from there.

Note that if you have never been licensed, you will first need to pass a knowledge test to get a learner permit. Then, you must practice driving, take a pre-licensing course, and finally pass a road test before you can get a driver's license.

If you have concerns about risks to you or your family, contact the New American Hotline at 1-800-566-7636.

FAQs

How much does the driver's license/learner permit cost?

- Cost of a driver's license varies based on age. The fees range between \$64.50 and \$107.50. All NYC counties also charge a Metropolitan Commuter Transportation District fee.
- Beware of unscrupulous individuals or businesses charging you to receive a driver's license or promising to get you a cheaper driver's license. **Only the DMV can issue a driver's license – do not give money to anyone but the DMV.**
- If you have questions about the new driver's license, or if you have concerns about fraud, call the New Americans Hotline at 1-800-566-7636.

Can the state government be forced by federal authorities to turn over applicant data?

- The new law specifically restricts access to DMV data by immigration enforcement agencies and prohibits anyone receiving DMV records or information from using that data for civil immigration enforcement purposes.
- Information like social security number, place of employment, or whether a driver's license is a REAL ID compliant license is protected.
- However, the law allows disclosure of information where required by an order from a judge.
- Keep in mind - some limited information (like your name and address) may not be protected.

Will there be any legal or visible difference between the new driver's licenses and other licenses?

- Everyone who receives a "standard" driver's license will receive the same kind of card, regardless of immigration status.
- "Standard" driver's licenses will include text that reads "Not for Federal Purposes," to make it clear that it cannot be used to board a plane, gain entry into federal property, etc.

Can undocumented New Yorkers obtain a "REAL ID" compliant license for use when flying on planes?

- No. The NYS "REAL ID" compliant driver's licenses require proof of certain immigration statuses. Federal law requires that, starting in 2020, state driver's licenses used to board a plane must be in compliance with the REAL ID act.
- DACA and TPS recipients, as well as other immigrant New Yorkers with work authorization or legal status, can apply for a "REAL ID" compliant license. However, that license will expire when the work authorization or legal status expires.

I heard that some county clerks outside of New York City have fought against the new law. Is it safe to go into a DMV in New York City to apply?

- The DMV in the five boroughs of New York City (Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Staten Island, and Queens) are run directly by the state.
- While county clerks are not allowed to refuse to issue driver's licenses to undocumented residents, people who feel unsafe applying in their usual county can apply for a driver's license in any county, including the New York City counties.
- To find a DMV office near you, go to dmv.ny.gov/offices

