

# New Resident Resources



## Moving to Texas

The following information applies to individuals who are transferring a valid out of state driver license and/or applying for a new Texas driver license identification (ID) card. Select the following link for a complete list of requirements and more information on how to apply for a Texas driver license.

## APPLY FOR A TEXAS DRIVER LICENSE

Individuals applying for a Texas driver license must:

### Gather documents that verify their:

- Identity
- Social Security Number
- U.S. citizenship or lawful presence status, and Texas residency.
- Complete the application. (This form is also available at any driver license office.)
- Individuals who are a new resident of this state must present either:
  - Proof of Tx vehicle registration and evidence of financial responsibility for each vehicle owned by the applicant or
  - A statement affirming that the applicant does not own a motor vehicle.

Apply in person at any driver license office and bring the required documents and fees.

- Pass Vision Exam
- Pass the knowledge and driving tests, unless exempt. in other languages and driving test requirements.
- Must complete a driver education course if under 25 years of age
- Complete Impact Texas Drivers (ITD) requirements for anyone who must complete a driving test.

## Teen Drivers

Individuals under 18 years of age must meet extra requirements including the

### **Graduated Driver License (GDL) Program**

The Graduated Driver License (GDL) program was implemented January 1, 2002 to give new drivers the chance to improve their driving skills over time in lower-risk environments.

## Foreign Students and Nonresident Visitors

To reduce the risk of identity theft, enhance security and protect the integrity of the licensing process, nonresident visitors (including students) applying for a driver license or identification card must meet certain requirements. The US Citizenship or Lawful Presence page describes the requirements for proving citizenship or lawful presence. Accepted

documents may be found in the Verifying Lawful Presence Guide which also contains information for temporary visitors.

## New Texas Residents

New residents who have recently moved to Texas and hold a valid, unexpired driver license from another state or country should read the information on moving to Texas.

## Motorcycle and Moped Riders

For motorcycle and moped riders, read Motorcycle Licenses for more information on obtaining a Class M license.

## U.S. Military Veterans

Some disabled veterans may qualify for a fee exemption on their driver license or ID card. A veteran designation for driver licenses is also available for qualifying veterans. More information about these services, including qualification requirements, is available on the Veteran Services page at <http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/vetServices.htm>

*Note: DPS no longer issues both a Driver License (DL) and Identification (ID) card to an individual. Applicants holding both types of cards must surrender one at the time of transaction. Texas Transportation Code (TRC 521.183)*

## TRANSFERRING AN OUT OF STATE DRIVER LICENSE TO TEXAS

New Texas residents can legally drive with a valid, unexpired driver license from another U.S. state, U.S. territory, Canadian province, or qualifying country for up to 90 days after moving to Texas.

*Prior to the end of the 90 day grace period, a new Texas resident must apply for a Texas license in person at any driver license office to continue to drive legally. When applying for the new Texas license the individual must surrender any unexpired driver license in their possession from another U.S. state, U.S. territory or a Canadian province.*

## Adults (18 and Older)

Applicants who have a valid, unexpired driver license from another U.S. state, U.S. territory, or from Canada must surrender their out of state/country driver license and are not required to take the knowledge or skills exams. Texas also has license issuance reciprocity with France, Germany, South Korea, and Taiwan only. Applicants who have a valid,

unexpired driver license from one of these countries are not required to take the knowledge or skills exams if they surrender their out of country driver license. However, if the applicant does not wish to surrender their out of country driver license, they must take and pass all required exams. The reciprocity only applies to passenger vehicles, not commercial vehicles or motorcycles. Foreign licenses not in English or Spanish will need to have a translation service or their consulate translate the information on the driver license prior to arriving. This translation requirement also applies for marriage licenses.

Applicants who have a valid, unexpired learner license from another U.S. state or U.S. territory, or Canada, France, South Korea, Germany or Taiwan and are applying for a Texas learner license, do not have to take the knowledge exam. If applying for a Texas driver license, these individuals must Complete the Impact Texas Driver course; and pass the skills exam.

Applicants who have a driver license from any country other than the U.S., Canada, France, South Korea, Germany or Taiwan must take and pass both the knowledge and skills exams.

### **Minors (Under 18)**

Applicants under 18 who have a valid driver license or valid learner license from another U.S. state, U.S. territory or Canadian province do not have to take the knowledge exam. Applicants who surrender a valid license/permit from another state will be issued the equivalent Texas version of the document surrendered (i.e. A Texas learner license for another state's learner license).

Applicants under 18 from a country other than the U.S. or Canada are required to take and pass the knowledge exam. This includes France, South Korea, Germany and Taiwan because the reciprocity agreement with these countries does not apply to minors.

Note: Texas law requires that anyone issued a Texas learner license must hold that license for at least six (6) months or until he/she is 18 years of age, whichever is earlier. If a learner license/permit is exchanged for a Texas learner license, it must be held for 6 months. No credit is given for prior months the applicant held their permit from another state.

In addition, to obtain a Texas provisional driver license, applicants under age 18, are required to:

- Complete Driver Education (44 hours behind the wheel instruction);
- Complete the Impact Texas Driver course; and
- Pass a driving skills exam. All applicants under 18 must take the skills exam even if they hold a valid driver license from another state or country.

### **Active Duty and Recently Discharged Military**

U.S. military personnel on active duty or individuals recently discharged with an expired driver license from another state may be exempt from the skills exam and knowledge exams.

To qualify for the exemption, applicants:

- Must present a valid military ID, and
- Provide proof that the state which issued the driver license has a military extension policy for which the individual qualifies. (The individual must contact the issuing state for correct documents). Select the following link for a complete list of requirements and more information on how to apply for a Texas driver license.

[Austin North Lamar](#)  
6121 North Lamar Boulevard  
AUSTIN, TX 78752  
General Information  
512-424-2076

[Austin South](#)  
6425 South Interstate 35, Ste. 180  
AUSTIN, TX 78744  
General Information  
512-444-5241

[Pflugerville Driver License Center \(Austin Area\)](#)  
216 East Wells Branch Parkway  
Pflugerville, TX 78660  
General Information  
512-486-2800

[Austin Northwest](#)  
13730 Research Boulevard  
AUSTIN, TX 78750-1812  
General Information  
512-424-2600

[Georgetown](#)  
515 Pine Street  
Georgetown, TX 78626-5100  
General Information  
512-863-5816

[Taylor](#)  
412 Vance #2  
Taylor, TX 76574-3500  
General Information  
512-238-2156

[Bastrop](#)  
305 Eskew St  
Bastrop, TX 78602-4119  
General Information  
512-581-7152

[San Marcos \(New Braunfels\)](#)  
1400 N I-35  
San Marcos, TX 78666-7235  
General Information  
512-353-2770