



**What you need to know  
about the Illinois  
REAL ID Program**

Beginning Oct. 1, 2020, the federal government will require your driver's license or ID card (DL/ID) to be REAL ID compliant for use as identification to board a domestic flight or to enter a military base or a secure federal facility. Not every person needs a REAL ID card, which is why we offer you a choice. You decide if you need a REAL ID or standard DL/ID.

The application process for a REAL ID-compliant DL/ID requires enhanced security measures that meet mandated federal guidelines, even if you already have a standard DL/ID. As a result, you must provide documentation confirming your identity, Social Security number, residency and signature.

Please note that there is no immediate need to apply for a REAL ID-compliant DL/ID. Current Illinois DL/IDs will be accepted to board domestic flights and to enter military bases or secure federal facilities until Oct. 1, 2020.

I appreciate your help in making Illinois a REAL ID-compliant state.

Sincerely,

*Jesse White*  
Jesse White  
Secretary of State

# Know your options before choosing your next driver's license or state ID card.

Action	Standard DL/ID	REAL ID DL/ID
Driving (DL only)	YES	YES
Using for general identification purposes	YES	YES
Boarding a domestic flight (U.S.) after Oct. 1, 2020	NO	YES
Entering a military base or secure federal facility after Oct. 1, 2020	NO	YES



**For additional information:**

**833-503-4074**

or visit:

**REALID.ilsos.gov.**

**JESSE WHITE**  
SECRETARY OF STATE

**JESSE WHITE**  
SECRETARY OF STATE

You have time...

# REAL ID

does not go into effect until  
**October 1, 2020.**

Your current Illinois driver's license or ID card (DL/ID) will be accepted at airports, military bases and secure federal facilities until Oct. 1, 2020. Beginning spring 2019, we are providing you with the choice either to obtain a REAL ID card or to keep a standard card. Take time to know your options.

### You **NEED** a REAL ID if:

- You do **not** have a valid U.S. passport or passport card; AND
- You use airplanes as a mode of domestic transportation; or
- You visit military bases; or
- You visit secure federal facilities.

### You **DO NOT NEED** a REAL ID if:

- You have a valid U.S. passport or passport card; or
- You do **not** use airplanes as a mode of domestic transportation; or
- You do **not** visit military bases; or
- You do **not** visit secure federal facilities.

# Know your options.

Make the choice that is right for you.

## Federal Limits Apply



## Application Process for Standard Driver's License or ID

If your DL/ID is currently valid and not expiring soon, you do not need to do anything.

**STEP 1:** If your DL/ID is expiring soon, visit a Secretary of State Driver Services facility and take your photo and the required exams.

**STEP 2:** Receive a temporary, secure paper DL/ID at the facility.

**STEP 3:** After review and verification of documents have been conducted, your new permanent standard DL/ID will be mailed to you within 15 business days.

**Fees for a Real ID and a standard DL/ID are the same.**



For domestic travel, a U.S. passport or a REAL ID card is acceptable. For international travel, a U.S. passport is necessary.

For additional information about passports:  
[npic@state.gov](mailto:npic@state.gov) or 877-487-2778



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## Application Process for REAL ID Driver's License or ID

**STEP 1:** Visit a Secretary of State Driver Services facility and take your photo and the required exams.

**STEP 2:** All applicants must provide proof of identity. (Examples are: a U.S. birth certificate, a U.S. passport, an employment authorization document, a permanent resident card or a foreign passport with an approved I-94 form.) \*Please note that name change documents, such as a marriage certificate, will be required if the applicant presents a birth certificate with a name different from his/her current name.

**STEP 3:** All applicants must provide proof of full Social Security number (SSN). (Examples are: an SSN card, a W-2 or a pay stub with full SSN.)

**STEP 4:** All applicants must provide two current residency documents with the applicant's name. (Examples are: a utility bill, rental agreement, deed/title or bank statement.)

**STEP 5:** All applicants must provide proof of signature. (Examples are: a credit/debit card, canceled check or current Illinois DL/ID.)

**STEP 6:** Receive a temporary, secure paper DL/ID at the facility. \*Please note that the TSA and federal agents will not accept the paper document.

**STEP 7:** After review and verification of documents have been conducted, your new permanent REAL ID card will be mailed to you within 15 business days.

\*For a complete list of acceptable documents for steps 2-5, please visit: [REALID.ilsos.gov](http://REALID.ilsos.gov)

As of Oct. 1, 2020, a REAL ID-compliant driver's license (DL) or identification card (ID) will be required to board domestic flights or enter military bases or secure federal facilities. To apply for a REAL ID DL/ID, please bring the appropriate documentation from each category specified below to your local Driver Services facility.



## Acceptable Documents of Identification



Documents of identification that are acceptable for the purpose of obtaining a Real ID card are listed by group. All acceptable documents presented for verification or proof must be valid (current and not expired). Hard copy documents are required; images from a cellphone are not accepted. An applicant may print the image (e.g., bank statement) and provide the printed copy when presenting documentation. **Photocopies will not be accepted.**

### GROUP 1: Proof of Identity, Date of Birth and U.S. Citizenship or Lawful Status

Requires one of the following documents:

- Certified copy of a birth certificate filed with a state office of vital statistics or equivalent agency in the individual's state of birth.
- U.S. passport or passport card.
- Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) issued by the U.S. Department of State, Form FS-240, Form DS-1350 or Form DS-545.
- Certificate of Citizenship issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Form N-560 or Form N-561.
- Certificate of Naturalization issued by DHS, Form N-550 or Form N-570.
- Employment Authorization Document (EAD) issued by DHS, Form I-766 or Form I-688B.
- Foreign passport with a U.S. visa affixed accompanied by the approved Form I-94 documenting the applicant's most recent admittance to the United States.
- Permanent Resident Card (Form I-551) issued by DHS or the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.
- REAL ID DL/ID card issued in compliance with the standards of Part 37 of Title 6 of the Code of Federal Regulations (pursuant to federal rule, this document alone is not sufficient to prove lawful status).

*Please note that name change documents, such as a marriage certificate, divorce decree, etc., will be required if the applicant's current name is different than the name that appears on the birth certificate. If a passport is in the applicant's current name, then name change documents are not needed.*

### GROUP 2: Full Social Security Number (SSN)

Requires one of the following documents:

- Social Security card.
- W-2.
- Pay stub or printed electronic deposit receipt bearing the applicant's name and SSN.
- SSA-1099 Form.
- Non-SSA-1099 Form.

### GROUP 3: Residency

Requires two of the following documents:

**All documents must contain full residence address. A document listed in Group 1, 2 or 3 that contains the full residence address is acceptable as proof of residency.**

- Bank statement (dated within 90 days prior to application).
- Canceled check (dated within 90 days prior to application).
- Certified grade/high school or college/university transcript.
- Credit report issued by Experian, Equifax or TransUnion (dated within 12 months prior to application).
- Deed/title, mortgage or rental/lease agreement.
- Insurance policy (homeowner's or renter's).
- Letter on official school letterhead (dated within 90 days prior to application).
- Medical claim or statement of benefits from private insurance company or public (government) agency (dated within 90 days prior to application).
- Pay stub or printed electronic deposit receipt.
- Official mail received from a state, county, city or village, or a federal government agency that includes first and last name of the applicant and complete current address. This may include, but is not limited to:
  - Homestead Exemption receipt.
  - Jury duty notice (issued within 90 days prior to application).
  - Selective Service card.
  - Social Security annual statement.
  - Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) statement.
  - Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits statement.
- Pension or retirement statement.
- Report card from grade/high school or college/university.
- Tuition invoice or other official mail from a college/university (dated within 12 months prior to application).
- Utility bill — electric, water, refuse, phone (land or cell), cable or gas (issued within 90 days prior to application).
- Voter registration card.

Continued on back.



## GROUP 4: Written Signature

Requires one of the following documents:

- Illinois DL/ID.
- Temporary DL/ID or commercial learner's permit.
- Out-of-state DL/ID.
- Canceled check (dated within 90 days prior to application).
- Cooperative Driver Testing Program certificate.
- Court order.
- Credit card/debit card – major provider.
- Driver's license issued by an agency of the U.S. government (e.g., Department of State).
- Foreign passport.
- Identification card issued by an agency of the U.S. government.
- Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Identification Card Verification Form.
- Medicare card – with suffix A, J, H, M or T.
- Mortgage or installment loan documents.
- Social Security card.
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) forms:
  - Form I-551 (Permanent Resident Card).
  - Form I-766 (Employment Authorization Card).
  - Form I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record) with valid passport.
- U.S. military DL/ID.
- U.S. military service record (e.g., DD 214).

## Additional Information

- After review of all identification presented, Driver Services or Secretary of State management has the right to accept or refuse any document.
- Applicants who are homeless applying for a no-fee REAL ID identification card must present one document from each of Group 1, 2 and 4, as well as a homeless status certification, as described in Section 1030.12, to satisfy the requirements for Group 3.
- Applicants who are under the age of 18 may submit documents from Groups 3 and 4 issued to their parent or guardian provided that they reside with the parent or guardian.



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