

## Obtaining Your Texas Identification (ID) Card or Texas Driver's License

In order to apply for a Texas ID card or driver's license, you must prove that you have lived in Texas for at least **30 days** by showing **two acceptable documents** that contain your name and residential address. The two documents must be issued by different companies or agencies.

Acceptable residency documents are

- A residential rental/lease agreement
- Utility statement dated within 90 days of the date of application
- Texas high school, college, or university transcript for the current school year
- Mail from financial institutions; including checking, savings, investment account, and credit card statements dated within 90 days of the date of application
- Current DS-2019 form, I-20 form, or a document issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services

If you surrender a valid, unexpired driver license from another state, the 30-day Texas residency requirement is waived. Visit Texas Department of Public Safety website to learn more about this requirement and acceptable documents at: <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/residencyReqNonCDL.htm>.

### Texas Identification (ID) Card

If you do not plan to drive a vehicle in the United States, you may apply for a Texas ID Card at the Texas Department of Public Safety. This card is used as identification when a photo ID is required.

#### **Application Requirements**

All first-time applicants for a Texas identification card must:

- Apply in person at a Texas Department of Public Safety office.
- Present the completed application, found at the Texas Department of Public Safety website.
- Present two acceptable documents to verify your Texas residency.
- Present the following documents to verify your identity:
  - Passport
  - Visa
  - I-20 or DS-2019 form
  - I-94 form
  - Employment Authorization Card, if you are on post-completion OPT
  - **If you are an F-1/J-1 student:** Status verification letter from International Student Services
  - **If you are a J-1 scholar:** Status verification letter from International Scholar Services
- Pay the required fee with a credit card, cash or money order.

### Texas Driver's License

If you will be in the U.S. for more than 30 days and plan to drive a car, you should obtain a Texas driver's license. Access to a car, knowledge of Texas driving regulations, and testable driving skills are basic requirements for a driver license. You must provide your own vehicle when taking the driving test.

#### **Application Requirements**

All first-time applicants for a Texas Driver's License must:

- Apply in person at a Texas Department of Public Safety office.
- Present a completed application, found at the Texas Department of Public Safety website.
- Present the following documents to verify your identity:
  - Passport
  - Visa
  - I-20 or DS-2019 form
  - I-94 form
  - Employment Authorization Card, if you are on post-completion OPT

- **If you are an F-1/J-1 student:** Status verification letter from International Student Services
- **If you are a J-1 scholar:** Status verification letter from International Scholar Services
- Present proof of Social Security Number. If you do not have a Social Security Number, you must complete a Social Security Affidavit form available at the Texas Department of Public Safety office.
- Present two acceptable documents to verify your Texas residency.
- Present proof of Texas vehicle registration and liability insurance on all vehicles your own.
- Pass the written, driving, and vision examinations. If you do not have a driver's license from another U.S. state, you must take both written and driving tests.
- Pay the required \$24 fee with a credit card, cash or money order.
- Provide a vehicle for the driving exam and present current liability insurance, Texas vehicle registration, and inspection for the vehicle.

**NOTE:** Anyone age 18 through 24 who does not have a valid driver license from another U.S. state or country must also provide proof of successful completion of an approved adult driver education course and a driving skills test. A list of approved adult driver education courses is available on the Region XIII Education Service Center website at: <http://www5.esc13.net/drivers/courses-directory-driver-education.html>

### Things to Remember

- You must complete the written examination on Texas Driving Rules and Regulations before taking the driving test. The Texas Driver's Handbook is available at <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/documents/DL-7.pdf> or at a Department of Texas Public Safety office.
- If you own a car, but do not have auto insurance, you will **not** be permitted to apply for a driver's license.
- **We recommend that you apply for a driver's license before you purchase a car.**

### Texas ID Card or Driver's License Renewal

You may renew your Texas ID card or driver's license up to one year prior to the current expiration date. Texas does not have a grace period to extend driving privileges beyond the expiration date.

To renew, you will be required to:

- Apply in person at a Texas Department of Public Safety office.
- Present the completed application, which you can download from the Texas Department of Public Safety website.
- Present the following documents to verify your identity:
  - Passport
  - Visa
  - I-20 or DS-2019 form
  - I-94 form
  - Employment Authorization Card, if you are on post-completion OPT
  - **If you are an F-1/J-1 student:** Status verification letter from International Student Services
  - **If you are a J-1 scholar:** Status verification letter from International Scholar Services
- Present proof of Social Security Number. If you do not have a Social Security Number, you must complete a Social Security Affidavit form available at the Texas Department of Public Safety office.
- Present two acceptable documents to verify your Texas residency.
- Pay the required fee with a credit card, cash, or money order.

#### Closest Texas Department of Public Safety Office

1258 Babcock Road  
San Antonio, TX, 78201

**Hours:** Mon, Tue, Thurs, and Fri: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Wed: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**For general questions, call (210) 737-2272 or (210) 737-1911.**