Texas Drivers License Guide

ONLINE DRIVERS LICENSES
Congratulations on your 60 day membership to our Roadside Assistance.
When out on the road, you will know that you are covered and protected by an organization that cares about the safety of you and your family. Our customer service representatives respond quickly to provide you the best service and protection available anywhere.

**24-Hour Emergency Roadside Assistance Benefits**
Customers are covered for emergency road service throughout the U.S. and Canada.

**24-Hour Towing Service**
Customers are entitled to emergency towing service at no out-of-pocket cost for any tow up to 75 dollars. One service per seven days, two services per contract. Extended distance will be an additional expense covered by the customer.

**24-Hour Mechanical First Aid**
Customers are entitled to any service requiring minor adjustments (exclusive of parts) to enable a disabled vehicle to proceed under its own power, where available.

**24-Hour Tire Change Service**
Customers may have their tire changed with their inflated and functional spare tire.
24-Hour Emergency Delivery
A service truck will deliver emergency supplies of gasoline, water, oil or other necessary supplies. Customers pay only for the cost of the supplies.

24-Hour Emergency Battery Service
Customers are covered for battery boosts and minor adjustments to alternators, starters, etc. while on the road.

24-Hour Lost Key Service
If keys are locked inside a customer’s vehicle, the customer will be assisted in gaining entry to the vehicle’s passenger compartment only. Locksmith services may be dispatched as needed at the customer’s expense for labor and key making.

Rental Car Discounts
Customers are entitled to take advantage of our rental car discount codes and pre-negotiated group rates, which are honored at thousands of locations throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Map Routing Service
We will, at no charge, provide customers with a four-color mapping and travel route information to destinations they specify.

Theft And Hit & Run Protection
A $500 reward is offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone responsible for Hit & Run damages or stealing customers’ vehicles. Whenever you travel, you will like the secure and confident feeling of knowing that you are protected by NSD’s Roadside Assistance. Fast response and excellent service are just two reasons why millions of motorists rely on NSD’s Roadside Assistance for on-the-road protection.
Keeping You Safe Mile After Mile

Once your purchase is processed, you will receive an email with the information you will need to start your 60 days of Road Assistance.

Congratulations!
Redeem Your $25 Gas Card Online

Follow the link in your confirmation email to start redeeming your $25 Gas Coupon.

*PLEASE SAVE ALL THE INFORMATION FOR YOUR RECORDS. You will use your log in information throughout the course of your complimentary gas membership.
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Obtaining your Texas driver’s license is one of the most gratifying moments in your life.

Our purpose throughout this guide is to make sure you get to that moment with as little stress or complications as possible. Getting your driver’s license in Texas should be a smooth process that only requires knowledge and preparation. That is where we come in; we are here to help you understand the application and preparation process.

This is a process that will only take a small amount of your time; in fact, the organization of this guide helps you review topics as quickly as possible. Filled with information, our guide includes topics on obtaining your learner permit, driver’s license or ID card. Our guide also covers the procedures for renewal, replacement or information updates on these identification options. We will make getting ready to drive on Texas roads a simple and convenient process.
Teen Drivers

If you are a teenager on the brink of entering adulthood, we are here to help you gain independence and responsibility by providing driver’s license application information. In each step moving towards obtaining your license, we will outline and help you to understand each procedure you must complete. As a new driver it is important that you carefully read each step to understand the application process. Following these steps ensures that you are well prepared to take on the responsibilities of the road.

Step 1: Teen Driver’s Education

The very first step to get a driver’s license in Texas is to complete a driver education course recognized by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). There are different ways to complete the required course and you may choose from the following options:

- **A private driver training school**
  Find schools through the [TDLR approved list](#).

- **Parent-taught driver education (PTDE)**

- **Driver education courses offered through your school**
  Click [here](#) for a list of approved courses.

Classroom time requirements include a minimum of 32 hours of in-class instruction, seven hours of training behind the wheel and seven hours of driving observation. In addition to in-class driving practice, you must practice driving for an additional 30 hours, 10 of which should be night-driving practice. TDLR regulations require that you complete your additional driving hours in no less than 44 calendar days. You may not receive more than two hours of classroom instruction per day, and you may not practice in-car driving for more than one hour each day.

Parent-Taught Driver Education (PTDE)

Parent-taught driver education courses must follow TDLR requirements to qualify as a valid driving course. A valid PTDE course requires instruction from your parent, stepparent, grandparent, step grandparent, or legal guardian. This person must also meet the following standards:

- No convictions or probated sentences of criminal negligent homicide
- Not have six points or more on his or her driving record
No orders for a driver's license suspension, revocation or cancellation in the last three years for traffic citations.

No intoxicated driving convictions or probated sentences on his or her driving record, regardless of when the incident occurred.

If the parent instructor meets TDLR restrictions, you may request a PTDE Packet from the TDLR. You may submit the request form online here. Once you complete the application, you may submit it to a TDLR office, or mail it to:

Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
P.O. Box 12157
Austin, TX 78711-2157
You may submit the request form online here.

**Fees**

There is a $20 fee for the Parent Taught Driver Education packet.

If you submit a PTDE packet by mail, you must submit payment through a check or money order made payable to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. The TDLR does not accept cash or credit card by mail. You cannot start your PTDE until you receive your instruction package. The packet can take up to two or three weeks to arrive after your submission. Once you get your packet in the mail, you may begin your PTDE course.

Once you complete your PTDE course, you will receive a completion certificate that you need to keep in a safe place. You are required to provide the certificate to apply for a learner's permit or provisional driving license.

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**Step 2: Learner License**

Once you finish your 32-hour classroom instruction, you can move on to get your Texas learner's license or permit. If you are under the age of 15 years old, you may not apply for a learner's license.
Documents
When you are ready to apply for your Texas learner’s license, you must present the following documentation in person to a Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) office:

- A completed Verification of Enrollment and Attendance form, high school diploma or a general education diploma (GED)

- A signed Texas Driver Education Certificate (DE-964) to verify that you completed the required classroom hours of driver education available through your instructor or in the PTDE packet

- A completed learner license application

- ONE proof of identity such as a passport or birth certificate

- ONE proof of Social Security Number, such as your Social Security card

- TWO proofs of Texas residency like utility bills, bank statements, or official mail showing your residential address

- TWO proofs of lawful presence such as a birth certificate or a certificate of naturalization

- Proof of Texas vehicle registration and evidence of financial responsibility for each vehicle you own or a statement affirming that you do not own a vehicle

Additionally, your parent or legal guardian must accompany you to help provide proof of residency when necessary. If you previously had a learner’s permit or license from another state, you must surrender the out-of-state permit or provide an affidavit from the Texas Department of Public Safety that indicates the out-of-state documentation is lost, stolen or expired.

A learner’s license will cost a total of $16, which includes a $1 administrative fee. At a local DPS office, you may submit payment by credit card, check, money order or cash. After submitting the application in person, you must pass the vision, knowledge and driving test. To learn more about these tests, continue reading below.

Knowledge Exam
The written test contains a series of questions formed from information in the Texas Driver’s Handbook about topics like the rules of the road and traffic signs. You must complete this exam at the licensing office or at an authorized testing facility. At this time, the DPS only offers English and Spanish driving knowledge tests. You may bring a translator who can assist before or after the test, not during the exam. The DPS cannot guarantee the availability of a bilingual customer service representative at all licensing offices. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you can request or bring an American Sign Language interpreter. If you require an ASL interpreter, be sure to make the request at least four days in advance so the DPS can make the necessary accommodations.

Vision Test
Part of the learner’s license application process requires you to take a vision test and an employee at a DPS location will administer your vision test. The test ensures that you meet the DPS vision standards. If you need prescription glasses or contact lenses, be sure to wear them to your appointment. If you do not meet the standards the DPS will refer you to a vision specialist, and the special will determine under what conditions you are fit to operate under, if at all. The vision specialist will submit a completed affidavit detailing your vision capabilities. The minimum for a vision test includes the following requirements:
While wearing corrective eyewear, you must have at least 20/70 vision acuity in your best eye.

Without corrective eyewear, your vision should be not be less than 20/40 in your poorest eye.

If you can only see from one eye, you must have 20/25 vision acuity without glasses, or 20/70 with glasses.

If you need corrective eyewear to operate a vehicle, your license will reflect this endorsement and you must use the corrective eyewear at all times while operating a vehicle.

Behind the Wheel

Texas teenagers at least 15 years of age and no older than 18 are eligible for a learner’s permit in Texas. After they successfully meet all requirements and apply for a learner’s license in Texas, they may utilize the driving privileges allowed by this type of license. A learner’s permit allows teen drivers to operate a vehicle with supervision from a driver who is at least 21 years of age with at least one year of driving experience. The supervising driver must sit in the front passenger seat and actively monitor the young driver. This person should always be alert, and cannot be asleep, intoxicated or doing anything that may prevent him or her from responding in case of an emergency. Drivers under the age of 18 must hold a learner’s permit for six months and be at least 16 years of age before applying for a provisional license. If the learner’s permit holder receives any suspensions, the length of the six-month waiting period extends to include the length of the suspension.

Step 3: Provisional License

After you successfully complete your behind-the-wheel training, you can submit an application for a Texas provisional license. A provisional license offers greater driving privileges with certain restrictions for your safety and the safety of those around you. You must hold a learner’s permit for six months and be at least 16 years of age before applying for a provisional license.

Before you apply for a provisional driving license, you must participate in the Impact Texas Teen Drivers program. The ITTD program is separate from the mandatory classroom requirements. You must take this course no more than 90 days before your scheduled driving test, otherwise the certificate of completion for the ITTD will expire.
Documents

To get your provisional license, you must go to a DPS office with a parent or guardian and provide the following documentation:

- A completed Verification of Enrollment and Attendance form, high school diploma or a general education diploma (GED)
- A signed Texas Driver Education Certificate (DE-964)
  - You can get this from your instructor or in the PTDE packet.
- A completed learner license application
- A copy of Impact Texas Teen Drivers (ITTD) certificate
- Proof of insurance for the vehicle used on the driving test
- Valid registration for the vehicle used on the driving test

A provisional license costs will cost a total of $16, which includes a $1 administrative fee. At a local DPS office, you may submit payment by credit card, check, money order or cash. After submitting the application in person, you must pass the vision, knowledge and driving test.

- ONE proof of identity
- ONE proof of Social Security Number
- TWO proofs of Texas residency
- TWO proofs of lawful presence
Driving Test

When applying for a provisional driver’s license, you must complete all the requirements, one of which is driving skills test. Before starting the driving exam, a DPS customer service representative will perform an inspection of your vehicle, checking for safety features and legal requirements. A driving test proctor will check to see if the seatbelts work properly and if the driver has a valid form of auto insurance, among other safety requirements.

A DPS customer service representative will sit next to you during your test and will provide instructions and expectations for the driving skills test. You should only speak to the instructor during the exam when necessary or for clarification. Your instructor will grade you on a variety of driving skills they ask you to perform, including but not limited to the following skills:

- Parallel parking
- Backing up in a straight line
- Use of turning signals
- Vehicle control (includes stopping or turning)

If you commit an illegal or dangerous action, your instructor will stop the test and issue an automatic failure. Once the test is complete, your instructor will provide advice or recommendations along with a pass or fail verdict.

Restrictions

With a provisional license, you may not operate a motor vehicle between the hours of 12 a.m. and 5 a.m. or have more than one person in the vehicle under the age of 21 years. You may operate outside the time restrictions only if you need to drive to work, attend a school function or activity or attend to a medical emergency. Additionally, you may transport multiple persons under the age of 21 if they are your relatives. If you are under the age of 18 with a provisional driver’s license, you cannot operate a wireless device in your car unless there is an emergency. The provisional license will expire on your 18th birthday.

Dates

If you do not pass the driving test on the first attempt, the DPS will keep your application on file for 90 days. If you do not pass additional driving tests within three attempts or by the end of the 90 days, you must reapply and submit the new fees.
Hardship License

Some teen drivers may apply for a minor restricted driver license (MRDL), also known as a hardship license. The hardship license is available to teens who can display a need for a driver’s license. To apply for the MRDL, drivers must be at least 15 years of age. This hardship license, if granted, expires on the driver’s next birthday. Applicants must complete the driver’s education classes and meet regular requirements for a driver’s license. Some qualifying hardships include vocational class enrollment and financial hardship on the minor’s family. Teens must bring the following to a DPS office to apply for a hardship license:

- A parent or legal guardian
- A completed application
  - This document is also available in person at the DPS office
- Driver’s education completion certificate
- Impact Texas Drivers completion certificate
- Proof of identity
  - Drivers may also provide a combination of identity documents
- ONE proof of Social Security Number

Applicants must pay $6 by check, money order, credit card or cash to submit their hardship license application.
Getting Your
First Texas License

With practice and road experience obtained under your learner's or provisional license, getting a standard driver's license should be a smooth procedure. If you choose not to apply for any of the teen licenses available, you may still submit an application for a standard driving license. You must be at least 18 years of age to apply for a standard driving license. You may apply for a driver's license at the age of 16 or 17 with the appropriate driver's education course requirements. You may apply for a hardship driving license at the age of 15, if necessary. If you are under the age of 18, you can apply for a learner's license or a provisional license.

The Texas DPS requires drivers under the age of 25 years to take a driver's education course as one of the necessary steps for license application. If you are between the ages of 18 and 24, you may take a six-hour course, although you can choose the 32-hour course typically provided for younger drivers, if necessary. If you are below the age of 18 and applying for a driver's license, you must attend a 32-hour driving course.

**Step 1: Adult Driver's Education**

If you wish to gain more behind the wheel practice, it is better to choose the traditional driver education course. You must have a learner's permit for any hands-on driving practice in driving courses. If you are over the age of 18, you can sign up for a six-hour driver's education course with an online provider or an in-person driving school approved by the DPS. You may click here for a list of approved providers for all driver's education courses. Once you complete your driver's education course, you can go to the DPS and apply to get your license. Continue reading for a list of required documentation for a driver's license application.
Documents

A completed driver’s license application

A copy of your Impact Texas Drivers (ITD) certificate (applies only for drivers younger than the age of 25)

Proof of identity. (You may provide a combination of identity documents)

ONE proof of Social Security Number

TWO proofs of Texas residency

Proof of lawful presence

Proof of insurance for the vehicle used on the driving test

Valid registration for the vehicle used on the driving test
A new driver’s license costs $25 for applicants at least 18 years of age or older. Licenses for drivers under the age of 18 cost $16. You must submit payment to the DPS office by credit card, cash, check or money order.

When applying for a driving license, you must complete a vision test, knowledge test and a driving exam unless exempt.

**Step 2: Vision Test**
When applying for a driver’s license at the DPS, you need to take a vision test, which will determine if you have to wear corrective lenses while driving. The driver license employee can determine that you should not be driving if your vision does not meet the minimum standards. If this is the case, you will receive a referral to an eye specialist and determine solutions to your vision problem, if applicable. The specialist will complete and submit a DL-63 form with their findings and solutions. You may apply for a license again if your vision is satisfactory.

To pass the test, you must have at least 20/70 vision acuity in your best eye wearing corrective lenses and not less than 20/40 in your poorest eye without the glasses. If you can only see from one eye, you should have 20/25 vision acuity without glasses, or 20/70 with glasses.

If you need contact lenses or glasses to drive, your driving license will reflect this restriction. You must always operate your vehicle with corrective lenses.

**Step 3: Knowledge Test**
If you are a driver’s license applicant under the age of 25 years, you must take the driving knowledge exam. The knowledge exam tests you on road rules, traffic signs and proper responses to certain driving scenarios. Some courses may provide a knowledge exam as part of their services, so you should verify with the DPS and the driving school of your choice about knowledge exam requirements. You make sign up for a DPS approved class [here](#).

**Step 4: Driving Test**
The DPS requires drivers younger 18 years of age to take a driving skills test when applying for a license. The driving exam makes sure that you understand how to perform basic driving skills. The driving test instructor will perform a safety check on your vehicle before the skills test can begin. This safety inspection ensures that your car is up to Texas standards for safety and legal operation. You must produce a valid insurance policy card and vehicle registration as part of the safety exam.

A DPS customer service representative will sit next to you during your test, and will provide instructions on the required tasks. Your instructor will grade you on four basic skills:

- Vehicle control
- Observation
- Vehicle positioning
- Signaling

Your test instructor will ask you to perform certain driving techniques and maneuvers, including but not limited to parallel parking, turning and stopping. If you violate any traffic laws, cause an accident or lose 30 points on the exam, your instructor will end the test and you will receive a failing grade. Once you complete the driving exam, the instructor will provide comments and suggestions to improve any errors. The instructor will then inform you if you have passed the driving skills test. Click [here](#) to learn how to prepare for a driving skills exam.
Dates

If you do not pass the driving test on the first attempt, the DPS will keep your application on file for 90 days. If you do not pass additional driving tests within three attempts or by the end of the 90 days, you must reapply and submit the new fees.

When you pass the driving exam and present all the required documentation at the DPS, you will receive a temporary license from the DPS. This temporary document is valid for 45 days or until the official driver’s license arrives in the mail. If you do not receive your driving license within 45 days after the exam, you must contact the DPS by phone at (512) 424-2600.

New Resident Drivers

If you already hold a license from another state and have become a new resident of Texas, you will need to obtain a Texas license within 90 days of your move. It is important to make sure that you obtain a valid driver’s license within this time to continue legal vehicle operation. You can only transfer your license in person at a local DPS office. To receive a Texas driving license, you must surrender your out-of-state license to a DPS office. Canada, other states and U.S. territories are able to submit their driving credentials with the Texas DPS.

Adults

Requirements for new resident driving documentation differ based on age range. Drivers 18 years of age or older do not have to take the driving skills test or the knowledge exam, as long as they surrender a valid out-of-state license. Texas has driving license reciprocity Germany, France, Taiwan and South Korea. Drivers who turn in their license from these countries do not need to take the driving skills or knowledge exams. Although surrendering an out-of-state driver’s license is not mandatory, drivers who do not surrender their credentials must take all necessary exams. Any adult motorists with a learner’s license from another state or reciprocal country can turn in their credentials and claim exemption from the knowledge test.

Minors

Drivers under the age of 18 do not have to take the knowledge test if they hold a valid driver’s license or learner’s license and surrender it to the DPS. Minors from the United States, a U.S. territory and Canada do not have to take a knowledge test if they hold a valid driver’s license or permit from their original state or country. The Texas DPS will issue an equivalent driving license or permit to drivers who hold a valid license or permit in another U.S. state.

Drivers who receive a Texas learner’s license must hold the permit for a minimum of six months or until their 18th birthday, regardless of how long they held the permit in the other state. Applicants who wish to apply for a provisional license must complete and pass the 44 hours of driver’s education, an Impact Texas Driver course and a driving skills test. A skills test is required for all new Texas drivers younger than 18.

Drivers must bring the following documents to the DPS when exchanging out-of-state driving credentials:

- A completed driver’s license application
- Impact Texas Drivers (ITD) certificate for drivers younger than 25 years of age
- Proof of identity
  - Drivers may provide a combination of identity documents.
- ONE proof of Social Security Number
A new Texas license costs $25 for applicants at least 18 years of age or older. Learner’s permits and license for applicants younger than 18 years of age cost $16. Permits and licenses for drivers younger than 18 years of age will expire on their 18th birthday. The DPS accepts payments by cash, check, money order or credit card.

Active-Duty and Recently Discharged Military Members

Active-duty military personnel or recently discharged military personnel with an expired, out-of-state license may receive exemption from some DPS testing. Drivers must show:

- Current military identification
- Proof of an military extension policy from the state the issued the original driver’s license
- Two proofs of Texas residency
- Proof of lawful presence
- Proof of insurance for the vehicle used on the driving test
- Valid registration for the vehicle used on the driving test
Renewing
Your License

License renewal is an important step you must take to maintain legal driving privileges. Renewal periods vary based on the license type and the age at which you receive your Texas driving license.

If you receive a learner’s license or a driver’s license as a minor, the credentials will expire on your 18th birthday. If you get a driver’s license between 18 years of age and 84 years of age, the license will expire every six years on your birthday. For any license received after 84 years of age, the DPS requires renewal every two years. The Texas DPS offers renewal in person, by phone, by mail or online. To learn about renewal processes and renewal restrictions, continue reading below.

Renew Online or by Phone

Online and phone renewals have the same requirements. The DPS requires drivers to meet the following requirements to renew a driver’s license through online or phone methods:

- Drivers must hold a class C or CM driver license. No other license types may renew through these methods.

  - Class C licenses include passenger vehicles and class CM licenses include a motorcycle endorsement.

- The driver’s license must not be expired for more than two years. Licenses that are not expired may qualify for these methods of renewal if the expiration date is less than one year away.

- Drivers with significant changes in health conditions may not renew online or in person if these changes affect their ability to drive. Health conditions include physical health, mental health and vision.

- Drivers cannot have outstanding warrants, unpaid tickets or active suspensions or revocations.

- The driver’s Social Security Number must be on file with the DPS at the time of renewal.

Drivers must be U.S. citizens between the ages of 18 and 78 years of age.

- Drivers cannot hold a learner’s license or a provisional license.

The previous driver’s license renewal must have been in person at a DPS office.
If you choose to renew by phone or through the DPS website, you must make sure to provide:

- A current Texas driving license.
- An unexpired credit card.
  - The DPS accepts MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover.
- The last four digits of your Social Security Number.
- The driver's license number and audit number located on your driving credentials.

If you renew online, you must have a printer available to print out your temporary driving license. You will not receive a receipt or an email with online renewal, so it is important that you have access to a printer to print this temporary license. This license is valid for 45 days, in which time you should receive your new driver's license in the mail.

To renew by phone, you must call 1-866-DL-RENEW (1-866-357-3639). You can renew online through the DPS portal. The phone option is ideal if you do not have access to a printer.

In any case, applicants can renew their drivers license online quickly and conveniently through a trusted third-party provider here.

If you do not receive your license by mail within three weeks, you may view the status of your license here. You may contact the DPS by phone at 512-424-2600 or through their online form here.

### Fees

The renewal fee for your Texas driver's license is $25. Online and phone renewal methods require payment by a credit or debit card.

### Renew by Mail

Drivers are only eligible for renewal by mail if they receive a renewal notice by mail. Drivers who receive this notice can still choose to renew online or by phone. Drivers must simply follow the instructions provided with the renewal notice to complete the process. Renewal by mail costs $24 and drivers may submit payment by check or money order. Applicants should allow for two to three weeks for license delivery. Motorists may view the status of their license here. If the license has not yet arrived, drivers may contact the DPS by phone at 512-424-2600 or through an online form here.

### Renew in Person

If you prefer to renew your driver's license in person at a local DPS office, you may find a location here. For in person renewals, you must provide the following information and documentation:

- A completed driver's license renewal application
  - Available online or at the DPS
- Proof of Social Security Number
- Proof of identity
- Proof of citizenship
The Texas DPS requires drivers to visit an in-person location to update their photo, fingerprints, signature and vision test. Drivers must visit an office at least once every 12 years to update these records with the DPS. Drivers between 79 and 84 years of age must renew their license in person.

To submit a renewal request, your driver’s license must not be expired for more than two years. Unexpired licenses qualify for renewal if the expiration date is less than one year away. If your license is expired for more than two years, you may only submit an application for a brand new driver’s license. To submit this new license request, you must provide a completed application, all necessary documentation and take any necessary exams when necessary.

Drivers who are 18 to 84 years of age must pay $25 for driver’s license renewal. The DPS accepts cash, money orders, checks and credit cards.

Note
Drivers who are at least 18 years of age but no older than 84 years of age must renew their driving license every six years by their birthday.
Senior Citizens

The Texas DPS has certain requirements and restrictions for drivers who are at least 79 years of age. Drivers between the ages of 79 and 84 may only renew in person at a local DPS office. Drivers in this age range pay the regular renewal fee of $25 and a renewal period every six years. Drivers who are 85 years of age or older must renew in person, renew their license every two years and pay $9 fee for renewal. Drivers who are 79 years of age or older must take a vision test during their renewal process to ensure the safety of the applicants and all other motorists of the road.

Out-Of-State Renewals

For drivers currently living outside the state of Texas or outside the United States, the Texas DPS offers a wide variety of renewal methods. Military personnel stationed outside of Texas, students temporarily living in another state for school or residents who live in another state for employment are all examples of residents who qualify for the out-of-state renewal procedures. Residents must have a permanent home in Texas, even if they are living outside the state. Out-of-state residents may renew their driving credentials online, by mail or by phone if they are eligible. Others can submit an Out-of-State or Out-of-Country packet to the DPS when necessary.
Drivers who wish to renew their license while out of the state must provide the following documentation to the DPS:

- An out-of-state renewal application (DL-16)
  Also available in the Out-of-State packet

- Proof of permanent Texas residency
  Accepted proofs are listed in the out-of-state packet

- Proof of Social Security Number

- Proof of military ID, if the driver’s license is expired over two years (Military personnel only)

- Vision test documentation (DL-63)
  Also available in the Out-of-State packet
Drivers submitting and out-of-state renewal packet must also provide a renewal fee of $24 by check or money order only. Applicants may make the check or money order payable to the Texas Department of Public Safety. Applicants must send payment and all required documentation to:

Texas Department of Public Safety, License and Record Service
P.O. Box 149008
Austin, Texas 78714-9008

Note

It is important that drivers only send copies of identification cards. The DPS will not return original copies of documentation.
Updating Your License Information

As you reach certain milestones in your life, you may need to change your driver’s license to reflect them. The Texas DPS requires drivers to submit any address or name changes within 30 days of the update. You may submit address changes online, by mail or in person at a local DPS office. If you need to submit a name or gender change, you must visit the DPS in person. To learn more about changing information on your driver’s license, continue reading below.

Online Address Change

For a convenient and easy way to change your address on your Texas driver’s license, you may submit the necessary changes online. You must meet all eligibility requirements to update your license with your new address and provide the necessary payments. When you request an updated license online, you will receive a temporary license from the DPS. This temporary license is valid for 45 days, in which time you should receive your up-to-date license in the mail. To change your driver's license address online, you must meet the following criteria:

- Your driver's license must not be expired. If your license is expired, you must renew the license at the same time as the address change.
- You cannot have any active license suspensions or revocations.
- Your Social Security Number must be on file with the DPS at the time of renewal.

Before you change your driver’s license address online, you must make sure you provide:

- A current Texas driving license.
- An unexpired credit card.
  - The DPS accepts MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover.
- The last four digits of your Social Security Number.
- The driver’s license number and audit number located on your driving credentials.

You must be a U.S. citizen between the ages of 18 and 78 years old.

You cannot hold a learner’s license or a provisional license.

You must hold a class C or CM driver license.

Class C licenses include passenger vehicles and class CM licenses include a motorcycle endorsement.
To submit your address change online, click here and follow the instructions. You must submit a credit card payment of $11 to get your updated driver's license.

By Mail Address Change

If you are unable or unwilling to change your address online or by mail, the DPS offers in-person service to make necessary address changes. You may fill out the application for a change of address and find your local DPS office here. The fee for an in-person address change is $11 and the DPS accepts cash, credit cards, checks or money orders.

You must submit a name change no more than 30 days after the legal change. You must submit original documentation indicating your name change, such as a marriage license, divorce decree, an official court order or a corrected birth record. For any changes to gender, you must provide a certified court order or an updated birth certificate with the correct gender. You may find a DPS office near you by clicking here. The fee for an in-person name or gender change is $11 and the DPS accepts cash, credit cards, checks or money orders.

By Mail Address Change

You must include a $10 payment in the form of a check or money order made out to the Texas Department of Public Safety. If you wish to submit your request by mail, you must fill out the application for a change of address and send it to the DPS:

Texas Department of Public Safety
P.O. Box 149008
Austin, Texas, 78714-9008

In Person Address Change

You must be a U.S. citizen at least 18 years of age.

You cannot hold a learner’s license or a provisional license.

You must hold a class C or CM driver license.

Class C licenses include passenger vehicles and class CM licenses include a motorcycle endorsement.

Your driver’s license must not be expired.

You cannot have any active license suspensions or revocations.

Your Social Security Number must be on file with the DPS at the time of renewal.
In the event of theft, loss or damage of a Texas driver’s license, you will need to replace your credentials as soon as possible. Without a driver’s license, you do not have your primary form of identification or proof that you may legally operate your vehicle. Getting a duplicate driver’s license with the Texas DPS is a simple process that requires a visit to a local DPS location with the necessary documentation and payment. If you need to replace your license while out of state, you can contact the DPS or click here for an out-of-state renewal and replacement packet. This packet can help you renew or replace your driver’s license or state identification card if you currently reside outside the state of Texas. If you need to replace your license due to a name or address change, you should follow the procedures in the name and address change sections above.

If you need to replace a stolen driver’s license, you should contact a local police department to file a theft report. Once you submit the report, you can follow the regular procedure for replacement. You can speak with a representative at the DPS about requesting a new driver’s license number if you visit an office in person and bring a replacement application and a police report. A new license or ID number is not mandatory for stolen credentials, and the DPS will approve such a request at their discretion. To learn more about preventing identity theft, click here for tips from the Texas Attorney General. To learn about the license replacement process, continue reading below.
Unless you are using the out-of-state replacement process, you must visit your local DPS office to request a replacement. When you need to replace your license or ID card, you must bring the following documentation:

- A completed application (DL-43) Also available at the DPS office
- Proof of identity, such as a valid passport
- Proof of lawful presence
- Proof of Social Security Number

You must also bring payment for the $11 license replacement fee. The DPS accepts credit cards, checks, money orders and cash. The expiration date of the replacement license does not change, but instead reflects the same date as the original card.
Reinstating Your License

You may lose your driving license privileges for any number of reasons, including driving while intoxicated or refusing to take a field sobriety test. Different license suspensions can have different restrictions, but once you have faced the necessary consequences, you may be eligible for license reinstatement. You may apply for reinstatement by mail, by fax or through email, depending on your suspension. For any questions on specific cases, you may contact the DPS by calling (512) 424-2600 during business hours or by submitting any inquiries through their online form.

If you need to reinstate your driving license, you must submit compliance documents to the DPS. These compliance documents can include a drug and alcohol course completion certificate or a certificate of insurance (SR-22). When you submit the necessary paperwork, you must label all documents with your name, date of birth and driver’s license number for identification purposes. You may include a copy of your suspension notice for easier identification. If you submit these documents through email, you must be sure the files are in a PDF format.

Before you apply to reinstate your driver’s license, you must first check to see if you have any additional fees associated with your license suspension. The Texas DPS online portal will show you any unpaid fines along with information about your license reinstatement eligibility. You may submit your payments online and continue with the reinstatement process. If you cannot submit payment for fees online, you may submit a check or money order by mail along with the necessary compliance documents. If you submit payments through the mail with your compliance documents, you must include your suspension notice. All documents must include your name, driver’s license number and date of birth.

To submit compliance documents without payment by mail, send the necessary information to:

Texas Department of Public Safety
Enforcement and Compliance Service
P.O. Box 4087
Austin, TX 78773-0320

You may send PDF compliance documents to driver.improvement@dps.texas.gov for a fast and convenient submission process. You may also send the compliance documents by fax to (512) 424-2848.

If you need to submit a check or money order for fees along with your compliance documents, you must send it to the following address:

Texas Department of Public Safety
Central Cash Receiving
P.O. Box 15999
Austin, TX 78761-5999

The processing time for all submissions methods may take up to 21 days.
Driving While Intoxicated (DWI)

A driving while intoxicated (DWI) charge is a serious traffic violation that no driver should risk. Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol can lead to serious consequences including fines, loss of driving privileges and even bodily harm in the event of an accident. The state of Texas has an implied consent law in which drivers who refuse to take a sobriety test receive automatic consequences like driver’s license suspensions. If you are a repeat DWI offender, consequences are more severe. During a traffic stop, a peace officer may request a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) test to measure your level of intoxication. If your BAC is .08 or higher, you will receive a DWI traffic violation. If an officer determines that your driving is impaired without a high BAC you can still receive a DWI violation. If you are a driver younger than 21 years of age, any amount of alcohol detected in your blood will result in an immediate DWI charge.

During a DWI traffic stop, you should comply with peace officers and submit to a breath of blood test when asked. If you refuse to submit to a sobriety test, you will automatically receive a license suspension for 180 days. For a first DWI offense, drivers can receive a fine up to $2,000 along with a large annual fee to keep their license privileges for the next three years. Drivers can receive time in jail up to 180 days, although it can be as low as three days. Drivers can lose their driving license for up to one year after their violation, after which time they can apply for reinstatement. Additional and continued DWI offenses will include increased fines, license suspension periods and jail time. DWI convictions can include mandatory drug and alcohol courses, probation and ignition interlock device installation.
Getting Your Texas ID Card

If you are unable or unwilling to obtain a Texas driver’s license, it is then important that apply for a state identification card. You may use the state ID card as a primary form of identification without receiving driving privileges. With the passing of a Texas law in 2015, residents may only carry a driver’s license or a state ID, not both at the same time. If you have a license but wish to get an ID card, you must first surrender the driver’s license to the DPS. If you currently hold an identification card from out-of-state or another country, you may wait until your current card expires before applying for a Texas state ID.

To get a Texas ID card, you must apply in person at a local DPS office and bring the necessary payment and documentation. The DPS requires the following documentation for a state ID:

- A completed application (DL-14A)
  Also available at the DPS office
- Proof of identity, such as a valid passport
- Proof of lawful presence
- Proof of Texas residency
- Proof of Social Security Number

The fee for a new ID card is $21, and the DPS accepts cash, checks, money orders and credit cards for payment. Like driver’s licenses, you must renew your identification card before expiration. You can follow the same steps as driver’s license renewal.
Vehicle Safety Tips

Before getting behind the wheel, it is important that your vehicle be prepared for a trip. This means checking the safety features and making any needed changes to your vehicle to guarantee a safe drive.

Emergency Kit

One of the essentials to safe driving is having a basic emergency kit available in your vehicle at all times. This kit should include items such as water, extra batteries, rope, first-aid kit, matches and a whistle. During the winter months, it is also important to carry items such as blankets, non-perishable foods, extra gloves and socks, and a shovel.

Inclement Weather Driving

If you live an area with snow or icy conditions during winter, you must take extra precautions when driving. Even rainy weather can create hazardous driving situations. Consider the below tips below to drive safely during inclement weather.

Do Not Panic If You Skid or Slip

In the event that your vehicle does skid or slip while driving, make sure you do not panic and slam down on your brakes. Instead, apply slow and even pressure on your brakes until you stop. You must also gently steer your vehicle in the direction you need to go. You must not make sharp wheel turns or brake suddenly. Following this advice will prevent you from spinning further out of control.

Check Your Vehicle

Before you leave your house, make sure your vehicle’s controls, brakes, tank, tires, antifreeze, and exhaust are all in working order. You should make sure your tires are not too smooth, as poor tire tread can cause an accident. If you need to, you can replace your tires during the winter with snow tires or add snow chains to help provide safe driving conditions. It is also important that you remove all ice and snow from your car before you begin driving. You should never leave your windows icy or covered in snow, as this can obstruct your vision.
Driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol is a dangerous situation that can kill or severely injure drivers and passengers alike. You can prevent a tragedy by planning ahead and making responsible choices. Before you begin drinking, arrange for someone else to be the designated driver. If they also become intoxicated, it is important that you take a taxi. If you need to stop someone from driving while intoxicated, take away his or her keys and call for alternative transportation. If you cannot find safe transportation home, try to stay in your location overnight.

If you see someone who you suspect is drunk and showing signs of intoxication while driving – such as making wide turns, weaving, swerving, breaking erratically or turning abruptly – call 911 and contact authorities immediately. Make sure to avoid impaired drivers on the road to ensure your own safety. This could mean you pulling over until they are at a safe distance from your car.

Driving while using your cellphone is incredibly dangerous. Distracted driving can cause accidents, injuries and death. In 2017, Texas legislation banned the use of cellphones while driving. Some cities have additional restrictions to prevent the use of cellphones while driving. If you need to use your cellphone, you should pull over and come to a complete stop or wait until you get to your destination.

Driving is not always a relaxing experience. There are certain actions that can be both an annoyance and dangerous to you while driving on the road. Read the below tips to see potential behaviors and actions that can help you improve your driving experience.

**Car Accidents**
One way to avoid car accidents is to ensure that your vehicle is safe to drive. You should perform routine maintenance on things like your brakes, tires and steering. Tires may lose traction or inflation and you can easily lose control of your vehicle. You should also check to see that your brakes are functioning correctly or if they need any maintenance or replacement. You can take your vehicle to a mechanic or car dealership to make sure everything runs smoothly and safely.

**Wasting Gas**
If you drive often, start looking for ways to save on those expensive trips to the pump. You should avoid sudden acceleration and excessive speeding to make the most of your gasoline. Another way to save on gas is to make sure that your vehicle is functioning properly. You can do this by checking that your tires are properly inflated, your engine is well tuned, and that you use the correct type of fuel in your vehicle.

**Aggressive Driving**
Some drivers may exhibit dangerous and aggressive behavior while driving. Some of these aggressive driving tactics can include verbal or physical harassment of another motorist and unsafe vehicle operation. Aggressive driving can lead to reckless and dangerous behavior that can cause serious injuries on the road. Drivers should pay close attention to the road and avoid aggressive drivers when possible.
The Department of Public Safety has offices conveniently located across the state. There is an [online locator tool](https://www.dps.texas.gov) that you may use to search for an agency in your area.

You can also access the DPS official website if you would like to use the online services. You may be able to renew and update your driver's license or ID card online, without having to leave the comfort of your home.

You can also contact Driving License Customer Service at (512) 424-2600 for general inquiries regarding your license or ID card.

The headquarters of the Texas Department of Public Safety is located at:

5805 North Lamar Boulevard
Austin, Texas 78752-4431

If you need to send correspondence to the Texas DPS, you can use its mailing address:

**Texas Department of Public Safety**
P.O. Box 4087
Austin, Texas 78773-0001