

## 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.**