

REAL ID in Pennsylvania

In March 2019, REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and photo ID cards will be available to Pennsylvanians who want them.

What is REAL ID?

The REAL ID Act is a federal law that affects how states issue driver's licenses and photo ID cards if they're going to be used for certain purposes, such as boarding a domestic commercial flight or entering a secure federal building that requires ID at the door.

*Beginning **October 1, 2021**, Pennsylvanians will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, photo ID card, or another form of federally-acceptable identification (such as a valid passport or military ID) to board a domestic commercial flight or enter a federal building or military installation that requires ID.*

Do Pennsylvanians have to get a REAL ID?

No, getting a REAL ID is optional for Pennsylvania residents. It is not necessary to have a REAL ID to:

- Drive
- Vote
- Apply for or receive federal benefits for which you are entitled (Veterans' Affairs, Social Security Administration, etc.)
- Enter a federal facility that does not require an ID (i.e. a post office)
- Access a hospital or receive life-saving services
- Participate in law enforcement proceedings or investigations (serve on a federal jury, testify in federal court, etc.)

What's the difference between a REAL ID and a standard-issue ID?

The chart below shows the difference between a standard ID or driver's license, and a REAL ID:

| | Standard Photo ID or Driver's License | REAL ID Photo ID or Driver's License |
|--|--|---|
| <i>Driving (DL only)</i> | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>General Identification Purposes</i> | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>Boarding a Domestic (U.S.) Flight after October 1, 2021</i> | ✗ | ✓ |
| <i>Entering a Federal Facility or Military Base (that requires ID) after October 1, 2021</i> | ✗ | ✓ |

What will REAL IDs look like?

REAL ID-compliant versions of all varieties of commercial and non-commercial driver's licenses and ID cards will be available.

The visible difference between a REAL ID-compliant product and a standard-issue, non-compliant product is that a **REAL ID-compliant product will be marked with a gold star**. REAL ID products are produced using the same security features as standard-issued products.

After March 2019, standard-issue, non-REAL ID driver's licenses and ID cards will also look different. Per federal REAL ID regulations, non-REAL IDs must be clearly labeled with the words "Not for REAL ID Purposes."

Below are examples of what REAL ID and standard-issue products will look like:

REAL ID-Compliant Driver's License



REAL ID-Compliant Photo ID Card

Standard-Issue (Non-Compliant) Driver's License



Standard-Issue (Non-Compliant) Photo ID Card



For additional sample images, visit the [REAL ID Images](#) page on the PennDOT Driver and Vehicle Services website.

What do Pennsylvanians need to do to get a REAL ID?

Federal REAL ID regulations require that PennDOT verify a customer's identity, social security number, Pennsylvania residency, and name changes (if applicable), even if a customer already has a PA driver's license or ID card. More info about document requirements, including a [printable document checklist](#), can be found on the [Document Check page](#) of the PennDOT Driver and Vehicle Services website.

U.S. Citizens

U.S. citizens will need to present original versions or certified copies of the following documents, per federal regulations.

Proof of Identity

Examples: Original or certified copy of a birth certificate with a raised/embossed seal, or valid U.S. Passport.

Social Security Card

Social security cards be laminated or unlaminated but must be original – no photocopies will be accepted.

**Please note that the name on your social security card MUST match the name on your proof of identity document.*

Two Proofs of Pennsylvania Residency

Examples: Current, unexpired PA license or ID, PA vehicle registration, auto insurance card, utility bill with the same name and address.

Proof of all Legal Name Changes (if applicable)

Examples: Certified marriage certificate or court order issued by your county's family court.

Please note: You must show a **complete name change history that links your birth certificate name to your current name. If you have a valid U.S. Passport or U.S. Passport Card with your current legal name, you do not need to show any name change documentation.*

- Additional info on name changes related to REAL ID can be found on the Name Changes page on [PennDOT's website](#).

Non-U.S. Citizens

If you are a lawfully present non-U.S. citizen, you are eligible to apply for a REAL ID driver's license or ID card. All documents must show the same name and/or date of birth, or an association between the information on the documents. All immigration documents must reflect your current name. Additional information on document requirements non-U.S. citizens can be found [here](#).

Proof of Identity

Acceptable documents include the documents shown below. Different documentation may be required, depending on your immigration status:

- I-551 Permanent Resident Card (Green Card)
- Passport with I-551 stamp
- Machine-readable Immigrant Visa
- Re-entry Permit I-327

Social Security Card

Social security cards be laminated or unlaminated but must be original – no photocopies will be accepted. If you do not have a social security number, you must provide an original copy of your SSA ineligibility letter.

Two Proofs of Pennsylvania Residency

Examples: Current, unexpired PA license or ID, PA vehicle registration, auto insurance card, utility bill with the same name and address

Online REAL ID Pre-Verification

Customers who received their FIRST Pennsylvania driver's license, learner's permit or photo ID card AFTER September 2003 may already have the [required REAL ID documentation](#) on file with PennDOT. These customers can apply for REAL ID pre-verification online, and after their request is submitted, PennDOT staff will review their record and determine whether the required documents are on file.



If the documents are on file, the customer may apply for REAL ID online, pay the required fees, and their new REAL ID will arrive in the mail within 15 business days. No need to visit the driver license center!

Additional information about [Online REAL ID Pre-Verification](#) – including [frequently asked questions](#) specific to online pre-verification – is available on PennDOT's Driver and Vehicle Services website.

Where can Pennsylvanians go to get a REAL ID?

Customers who choose to get a REAL ID have three options for obtaining one:

- **Apply online** (pre-verified customers only)
- **Visit any PennDOT Driver License Center** to have your documents verified and imaged, and receive your REAL ID within 15 business days
- **Visit a REAL ID Center** to have your documents verified and imaged and receive your REAL ID at the time of service

The following PennDOT Driver License Centers can issue REAL IDs over the counter. Locations with an asterisk are new sites that will be open in March 2019.

| Location Name | Location Address | County |
|----------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Altoona | 1738A 9th Ave., Altoona | Blair |
| Bridgeville* | 1025 Washington Pike, Rt. 50, Bridgeville | Allegheny |
| Erie | Summit Towne Center, 7200 Peach St., Erie | Erie |
| King of Prussia* | 143 S. Gulph Road, King of Prussia | Montgomery |
| Lancaster East* | 2090 Lincoln Highway East., Lancaster | Lancaster |
| Norristown | 1700 Markley Street, Norristown | Montgomery |
| Rockview | 812 W. College Ave., Pleasant Gap | Centre |
| South 70th St. | 2904 South 70th St., Philadelphia | Philadelphia |
| Summerdale* | 429 North Enola Road, Enola | Cumberland |
| Whitehall* | 1101 MacArthur Road, Allentown | Lehigh |
| Wilkes-Barre | 1085 Hanover St., Wilkes-Barre | Luzerne |
| Williamsport | 1782 E. 3 rd St., Williamsport | Lycoming |

How much will a REAL ID cost and when will it expire?

Customers who choose to get a REAL ID will pay a one-time fee of \$30, plus a [renewal fee](#) (current renewal fee is \$30.50 for a four-year non-commercial driver's license or a photo ID). The expiration date of the initial REAL ID product will include any time remaining on the current license or ID card, plus an additional four years, unless the customer is over 65 and has a two-year license.

This expiration date structure means that customers won't "lose" time that they've already paid for. After the initial REAL ID product expires, the customer will pay no additional fee, beyond regular renewal fees, to renew a REAL ID product.

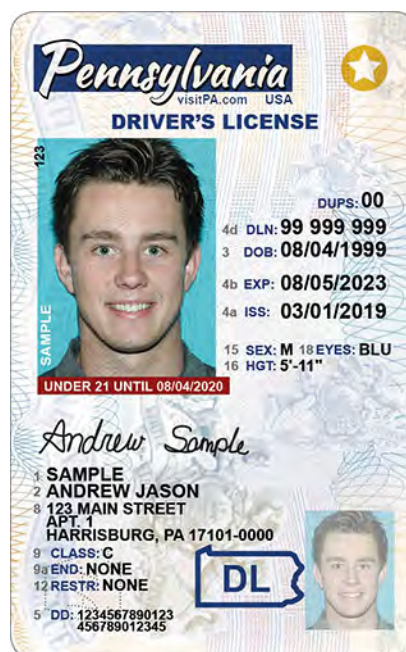


The image to the right illustrates this scenario. In this example, when the customer got their first REAL ID in March 2019, their current product was set to expire in August 2023 – they had almost four years left. Their first REAL ID includes the time that they had left on their current license, plus four additional years.

Can minors get a REAL ID?

Yes, REAL ID-compliant versions of minor and junior driver's licenses and photo ID cards are available. If a minor chooses to get a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or ID card, they must present the required documentation and pay the \$30 one-time fee, plus the regular initial issuance fee. The documents required to get an initial learner's permit, driver's license or photo ID card (birth certificate or passport, social security card and two proofs of residency) are the same documents that are required to opt into REAL ID.

TSA does not currently require children under 18 to provide identification when traveling with a companion within the United States. The companion will need acceptable identification, a list of which can be found on [TSA's website](#).

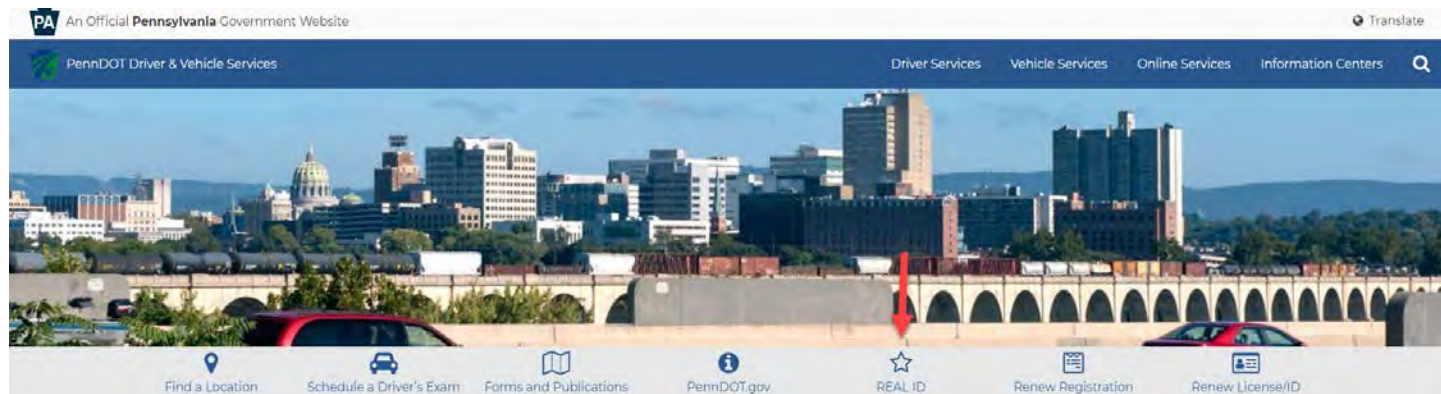


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Additional Resources

PennDOT's REAL ID Website

The best place to get the most up-to-date information is in the REAL ID section of PennDOT's Driver and Vehicle Services website. You can easily get to the REAL ID section from any page on the website by clicking the "REAL ID" star icon, as shown below:



You can also get there directly by typing www.PennDOT.gov/REALID into your browser's address bar.

PennDOT's REAL ID website has a great deal of general information and FAQ's about REAL ID, plus specific information on the following:

- [REAL ID Document Check](#)
- An interactive [REAL ID Wizard](#) to help Pennsylvanians decide if they need a REAL ID
- [Name changes and REAL ID](#)
- [REAL ID info for CDL Holders](#)
- [REAL ID info for Non-U.S. Citizens](#)
- [REAL ID Center Locations](#)

Additional information about REAL ID at the federal level can be found on the [U.S. Department of Homeland Security's website](#).

REAL ID Media Center

PennDOT's [REAL ID Media Center](#) is full of free, downloadable resources on REAL ID that can be shared with your customers or constituents. Resources available from the media center include:

- Downloadable brochures and posters (in both English and Spanish)
- Sample social media posts
- Images for use on the web or social media
- A [30-second REAL ID video](#)

