

Applying for a Driver Privilege Card

Who can get a privilege card?

You may be eligible to obtain a privilege card if you meet the following requirements:

- You are a non-U.S. citizen residing in Virginia
- You have reported income from Virginia sources or have been claimed as a dependent on a tax return filed in Virginia within the last 12 months
- Your driving privilege is not currently suspended or revoked in Virginia or any other state, and you do not have any insurance-related violations
- You are 16 years and 3 months old or older. **Note: You may be eligible for a learner's permit if you are at least 15 years and 6 months old**

****The driver privilege card is not REAL ID compliant, so it cannot be used as identification to board a flight or enter a secure federal facility. Applicants for a driver privilege card are not eligible for a commercial driver's license.****

How can I get a privilege card?

IF YOU HAVE HAD A LICENSE :

If you have ever had a driver's license or a driving privilege card issued by Virginia, another U.S. state, jurisdiction, territory, or foreign country, and you can provide acceptable proof (driver's license, driving record, or court/insurance documentation showing that you previously had a license), you may be able to exchange that license for a driver privilege card.

To exchange a foreign license, see **Exchanging a Foreign Driver's License** (<https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/licenses-ids/license/applying/exchange-foreign-dl>) for additional requirements.

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IF YOU HAVE *NEVER* HAD A LICENSE:

If you are under 18 years old and have never had a driver's license or driving privilege card issued by Virginia, another U.S. state, jurisdiction, territory, or foreign country, or you cannot provide proof that you previously had one, you must provide proof that you have:

- Completed a state-approved driver education program
- Held a learner's permit for nine months
- Passed the **knowledge exam** (<https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/licenses-ids/exams/know-exam>)

If you are 18 years old or older and have never had a driver's license or driving privilege card issued by Virginia, another U.S. state, jurisdiction, territory, or foreign country, or you cannot provide proof that you previously had one, you must provide proof that you have:

- Completed a state-approved **driver education program** (<https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/licenses-ids/learners/ed-reqs>), or
- Passed the **knowledge exam** (<https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/licenses-ids/exams/know-exam>) and held a learner's permit for at least 60 days before passing the **DMV road skills test** (<https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/licenses-ids/exams/road-skills-test>)

Where do I take the knowledge exam?

The two-part knowledge exam can be taken at any DMV customer service center or at participating high school classrooms. It is available in several languages.

Can I use a translator?

Translators may be used for the two-part knowledge exam administered at a DMV customer service center if:

- The DMV does not offer the exam in your primary language, and
- You cannot complete and understand the exam without the use of a translator

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Translators may also be used for the road skills test if you cannot complete and understand the test without the use of a translator.

The DMV does not provide translator or interpreter services. If you need a translator, you must provide one yourself. All translators must provide a photo identification document listed on **DMV Form 141** (<https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/sites/default/files/forms/dmv141.pdf>).

Application and Documents

All applicants for a driver privilege card must complete the **Driver Privilege Card and Identification Card Application** (<https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/sites/default/files/forms/dl10.pdf>). You may complete it before or during your DMV appointment. **When completing it, remember:**

- Use your full legal name. Abbreviations and nicknames will not be accepted.
- If you are under 18 years old, your parent or legal guardian must provide written consent by signing your application. A court order showing that you are an emancipated minor may be accepted instead of written consent.

Along with your application form, you must present all of the following documents to prove your eligibility:

- Two proofs of identity
- Two proofs of Virginia residency
- Proof of your Social Security number (if one has been issued to you) or your Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)
- Tax filing documentation

To determine which documents are acceptable, see the **Document Guide** (<https://transactions.dmv.virginia.gov/apps/documentbuilder/intro.aspx>) or **How to Obtain a Driver Privilege Card or Identification Privilege Card** (<https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/sites/default/files/forms/dmv309.pdf>).

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Additional Requirements

If you are under 18 years old and are completing a driver education program, your parent, guardian, or foster parent must provide their driver's license, driving privilege card, or state-issued identification card number and sign the driver education completion certificate to certify that you have driven at least 45 hours, 15 of which occurred after sunset, and that the statements made and information submitted on the certificate are true and correct. Certifying false statements may result in prosecution.

If you have previously been found not innocent of any offense by a Virginia juvenile and domestic relations court or by a court in any other state, you must obtain approval for licensing from that court, or from a court in the city or county where you live, to be eligible for a driver privilege card.

If you or your spouse are in the military and live in on-base housing, you must provide a valid U.S. Postal Service (USPS) mailing address. If this is your residence and mail cannot be delivered to your housing address, you may also provide the DMV with an alternative mailing address. Some on-base housing, such as military barracks, may not be recognized by the USPS. If you are unsure, check with your unit's official mail manager.

Duration and Fees

****If you apply for your first driver privilege card before July 1, 2026, your privilege card will expire on your birthday in the second year of the card's validity.****

****If you apply for your privilege card on or after July 1, 2026, your privilege card will be valid for 8 years. The extended validity period is due to a law change that takes effect on July 1, 2026.****

- If you do not renew your card before the expiration date, you will need to begin the application process again to obtain a new card.
- The fee is \$50 for your first driver's privilege card and \$50 for each renewal. A combined learner's permit and driver privilege card costs \$53. See our **fee chart** (<https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/sites/default/files/forms/dmv201.pdf>) for additional fees and details.

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Receiving Your Driver Privilege Card

Once you pass the required tests and your application is approved, you will receive a **temporary driving permit**, and your driver privilege card will be mailed to you.

If you have moved, notify the DMV immediately, since the USPS does not forward driver privilege cards. Mail delivery times vary.

Please allow at least 15 days to receive your new Driver Privilege Card before contacting the DMV.

If you are under 18 years old when your driver privilege card is issued, you may be required to attend a court licensing ceremony with your parent or guardian to receive your license. The Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court in your jurisdiction will mail you a notice if attendance is required. If the court does not require the ceremony, your privilege card will be mailed to you. See the list of **courts/ jurisdictions that require licensing ceremonies for minors** (https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/sites/default/files/forms/court_licensing_reqs.pdf) for more information.

If you are under 18 years old when the driver privilege card is issued and are required to attend a court licensing ceremony, and you turn 18 before the ceremony, you must still attend the ceremony, but your parent or guardian is not required to accompany you.

The DMV may deny or suspend driving privileges for individuals under 18 years old if the minor meets one or more of the following conditions:

- The minor is found delinquent by a court
- The minor requires supervision
- The minor is involved in an alcohol- or drug-related offense
- The minor requires court-assigned services or programs, such as counseling

Medical Requirements

If you are under 18 years old, you, one of your parents, or a legal guardian may submit a signed medical statement requesting that indicators be placed on your driver privilege card as a way to identify a disability to law enforcement personnel.

A “9” will appear in the restriction field on the front of the license and will be decoded on the back as follows:

- Insulin-dependent diabetic
- Speech disability
- Hearing disability
- Intellectual disability (shown as IntD)
- Autism spectrum disorder (shown as ASD)
- Traumatic brain injury

If you have questions about a driver’s physical condition, see **Medical and Mental Requirements** (<https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/licenses-ids/license/medical/spec-restrict>).

Driver Privilege Card Classification

Your driver privilege card will display “D” under the “Class” heading and “9” under “Restrictions.” The back of your driver privilege card will decode the “D” classification as “Operator Driver’s License” and the “9” restriction as “Limited Duration (see expiration date on front).”

A Class “D” driver’s license allows you to operate passenger vehicles.