How can I get a REAL ID?

Beginning in September 2018, you may bring your REAL ID documentation to any PennDOT Driver License Center for verification. Once REAL IDs are available in spring 2019, you will be able to order your REAL ID online—no need to go back to the driver license center!

Once you order your REAL ID online, PennDOT will use your most recent photo on file and your new REAL ID will arrive in the mail within 7-10 business days.

After REAL IDs are available, you will have three options for obtaining a REAL ID:

- **Apply online** (pre-verified customers only)
- **Visit any PennDOT Driver License Center** to have your documents verified and imaged, receive your REAL ID in the mail within 7-10 business days
- **Visit one of up to 13 REAL ID Centers** statewide to have your documents verified and imaged, receive your REAL ID at the time of service

Where can I go to learn more?

To get the most up-to-date, accurate information about REAL ID in Pennsylvania, visit PennDOT.gov/REALID.

Visit our website to learn more about REAL ID and decide if it’s right for you. You’ll find detailed information about what documents you need to present, and answers to frequently asked questions about REAL ID.

For additional information about REAL ID from the federal Department of Homeland Security, visit www.dhs.gov and search for “REAL ID.”

For a complete list of identification accepted by TSA, visit www.tsa.gov and search for “Identification.”

Things to Remember:

Individual federal facilities—including military installations—may have different security measures and accepted forms of identification may vary. Contact the facility in advance of your visit to learn what forms of ID will be accepted.

After October 1, 2020, you will need a REAL ID (or another TSA-approved form of ID) to board a commercial flight, even within the U.S.

You will still need a valid passport to travel internationally.

Learn more at: www.PennDOT.gov/REALID

Pre-Verify Online!

If you received your FIRST Pennsylvania driver’s license, learner’s permit or photo ID card AFTER September 1, 2003, PennDOT may already have your REAL ID documentation on file.

To find out if your required REAL ID documents are on file with PennDOT, visit www.PennDOT.gov/REALID.

If PennDOT confirms that your documents are on file, you can order your REAL ID online when they are available in spring 2019—no need to visit a driver’s license center!
What is REAL ID?

The REAL ID Act is a federal law that affects how states issue driver’s licenses and ID cards if they are going to be acceptable for federal purposes, such as boarding a domestic commercial flight, or entering a military installation or federal facility that requires ID.

Beginning October 1, 2020, Pennsylvanians will need a REAL ID-compliant license, identification card or another form of federally-acceptable identification (such as a valid passport or military ID) to:

- Board domestic commercial flights
- Enter a military base
- Enter a federal facility that requires ID at the door

Do I have to get a REAL ID?

No. REAL ID is optional for Pennsylvania residents. You will be able to get either a REAL ID driver’s license or identification card, or a standard driver’s license or identification card.

If you do not get a REAL ID, you must have an alternate form of federally-acceptable identification (valid passport, military ID, etc.) to board domestic commercial flights and enter certain federal facilities after October 1, 2020.

How do I prepare to get a REAL ID?

The best thing you can do to prepare for REAL ID is to get your documents together.

Federal regulations require that PennDOT must verify the following documents for a customer before issuing a REAL ID:

- **Proof of identity**
  - Original or certified copy of a birth certificate with a raised seal, issued by an authorized government agency, or valid U.S. Passport.
- **Proof of Social Security number**
  - Social Security card.
- **Proof of all legal name changes**
  - Marriage certificate, court order or divorce decree issued by your county’s family court.
- **Two proofs of current, physical PA address**
  - Examples: Current, unexpired PA license or ID and a no more than 90-day-old bank statement or utility bill with the same name and address.

Learn more at: [www.PennDOT.gov/REALID](http://www.PennDOT.gov/REALID) and click "Document Check."

When can I get a REAL ID?

REAL IDs will be available to customers who want them in spring 2019.

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

You 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 your first REAL ID license or ID card will include any time remaining on your current license or ID card, plus an additional four years.*

For example, if your license is set to expire in October 2020, but you upgrade to a REAL ID in October 2019, your new REAL ID-compliant license or ID card won’t expire until October 2024.

This means that you won’t “lose” time that you’ve already paid for. After your first REAL ID license or photo ID expires, there are no additional fees to renew a REAL ID vs. a standard-issue ID.

If you are receiving your first Pennsylvania driver’s license or photo ID and you’d like to get a REAL ID, you’ll pay the one-time REAL ID fee, plus the regular initial issuance fee (current initial issuance fee for a non-commercial learner’s permit and driver’s license is $35.50, $30.50 for a photo ID).

*unless you are over 65 and have opted for a two-year license

### Standard ID or DL vs. REAL ID or DL

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Learn more at: [www.PennDOT.gov/REALID](http://www.PennDOT.gov/REALID)