

Identity Documents for Washington Driver Licenses

Intro

Sometimes there is confusion in the community about what documents you need to get a driver license. This explains what identification documents you need in Washington State.

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- ❖ To find out how to prove you live in Washington if you do not have a Social Security number, read [How Do I Apply for a Driver License if I Do not have a Social Security Number.](#)
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When you go to the Department of Licensing to get your license or identification card, you should take documents that prove your identity. The Department has three ways to prove your identity.

There are documents the Department must accept, if you have them. They are:

- an old driver license or ID card from this state
- an old driver license or ID card from another state
- a U.S. military ID card
- a U.S. passport with your photo and signature
- a U.S. immigration form with your photo and signature
- a U.S. or state government employee ID card

Do I need to have immigration documents to get a driver license?

No. You can prove your identity using other documents. You can use a combination of

documents, including one that lists your name and date of birth, and is a foreign passport, certain Native American tribes' enrollment documents or Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) documents, verification letters from specified correctional authorities or Washington city or county police employee ID cards. You must also have two other documents that have your name and signature.

If you do not have any of these, you must take at least **five documents** that have your photo, signature, address and/or date of birth. One must have your name and date of birth.

What are some examples of documents with my name and date of birth that the Department will accept?

The most common examples are

- certified birth certificates
- certain court papers
- foreign passports or driver licenses
- refugee relief placement packets

What are some examples of other documents the Department will accept?

They include

- library, bank, credit and bus pass cards
- the Mexican matriculate consular
- medical coupons
- cancelled checks
- rent agreements

The other three documents you present must be from a list approved by the department. See www.dol.wa.gov/driverslicense/idproof.html.

What if the Department of Licensing does not accept my documents?

It depends.

1. **If you only need a driver license**, you can get a license that is "not valid as identification." It is legal to drive. You cannot use this license for ID.
2. **If you need ID and a driver license**, ask to have a supervisor in the office review your documents to see if they can establish your identity. If they still deny you a license or ID card, write the director of the Department of Licensing a letter.
3. **The law says you must give your Social Security number** to the Department of Licensing. If you do not have a Social Security number, read [How Do I Apply for a Driver License if I Do not have a Social Security Number](#).

I get public assistance. I cannot afford a driver's license. What can I do?

Ask your DSHS caseworker to fill out form 16-029 "Request for Identocard". One is at the end of this publication or ask your caseworker for the form. Take the completed form to DOL to get a Washington State Identification card for five dollars.

Can I use my driver's license to fly in the United States?

For now. Starting October 1, 2020, you will only be able to use your driver's license to board a flight to any place in the United States if it is an Enhanced Driver License. If you do not have an Enhanced Driver's License, you can use other ID approved under federal law such as a passport (a U.S. or foreign-issued passport), a Permanent Resident Card (Green Card), or U.S. military ID. Visit <https://id2020wa.com/> for more info.

What if I have questions?

CLEAR: 1-888-201-1014 weekdays, 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

(to speak with a legal worker and get advice and/or referral for more help); or call one of our local offices:

NORTHWEST JUSTICE PROJECT

Wenatchee: 1-888-201-1021

Yakima: 1-888-201-1018

COLUMBIA LEGAL SERVICES

Wenatchee: 1-800-572-9615

Kennewick: 1-888-201-9735

Yakima: 1-800-631-1323

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This information is current as of March 2019.

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Request for "Identicard"



To: Department of Licensing

From: Department of Social and Health Services

This is to certify that _____ (whose signature appears below)

living at _____

who was born on _____ is a recipient of continuing public assistance. He / she has assured us that he/she does not presently have a valid drivers license and is prepared to produce whatever evidence you may require to prove his/her identity. Pursuant to RCW 46.20.117, he/she is eligible to receive an "Identicard" at cost and is prepared to pay such cost from his/her own funds.

RECIPIENT SIGNATURE

DATE

AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEE