

Why is the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles issuing the REAL ID driver licenses and ID cards?

Federal law requires all states to issue REAL ID driver licenses and ID cards. Congress passed the REAL ID Act requiring states to issue identification that meets higher security standards.

Does a REAL ID look different from my current driver license or ID card?

Yes. A REAL ID is a driver license or ID card with a gold star in the upper right corner.

How much does a REAL ID driver license or ID card cost and when will I get it?

A REAL ID is the same cost as your current driver license, learner's permit or ID card. You can expect to receive your REAL ID by mail within 20 business days.

When can I renew my license or ID card and get a REAL ID?

Within six months of your expiration date. Driver licenses are issued for a period of five or eight years, depending on your age. Ages 18 to 65 are issued for 8 years and ages 66 or older are issued for 5 years.

Do I still need my current driver license to obtain a REAL ID?

No, but you can use your driver license to verify your current address along with the other required documents.

Can I get a REAL ID if I am not within my renewal period (six months from my expiration date) for my driver license or ID card?

Yes, you can get a REAL ID for \$13. Your expiration date will not change.

Can I get a REAL ID driver license online when I renew?

No, you must obtain your first REAL ID at a DMV driver license office.

Can I make an appointment to get my REAL ID?

Yes, you can schedule an appointment at any driver license office by calling (919) 715-7000.

What if my name does not match my birth certificate or other documentation?

You must provide a proof of name change, such as a certified marriage license/certificate, certified divorce decree or document from the courts or Register of Deeds.

What happens if I don't have a REAL ID and I want to fly domestically or enter a federal facility?

Beginning Oct. 1, 2020, if you don't have a REAL ID you will need to provide additional identification with your current license or ID to board flights or get into federal installations, nuclear power plants and military bases. Anyone without a REAL ID should plan ahead by contacting TSA, or other federal facilities to determine what identification is required.

Will children need to have REAL ID driver license or ID card to fly domestically?

Children under 18 are not required to provide identification when traveling with an adult within the United States. Minors traveling without an adult will need a REAL ID or additional identification.



Will I have to bring in my identity and residency documents again?

If your name changes, then you will need to bring documents that verify your name change and an updated Social Security Number. You must visit the Social Security Administration first.

If I need a driver license or ID card and I don't have the required documentation for a REAL ID, can I still be issued a license or ID card?

Yes, you will be issued a driver license or ID card marked "Not for Federal Identification". You can schedule an appointment to obtain a REAL ID at a later date.

Will my REAL ID replace my current driver license or ID card?

Yes, your driver license or ID card will become a REAL ID driver license or REAL ID identification card.

Once I get my first REAL ID, can I renew my REAL ID driver license online?

Yes, you can renew your REAL ID driver license online. You can also order duplicates online.

Will my gold star ever be removed?

No. Once you have a gold star, it will remain on your driver license or ID card.

Has North Carolina complied with the federal REAL ID standards?

Yes, North Carolina is compliant with the REAL ID standards.

Who determines the standards and requirements for REAL ID?

Standards and requirements for REAL IDs were established by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

What federal facilities in North Carolina will require a REAL ID for admittance?

Any federal facility that checks identification could require REAL ID. Anyone without a REAL ID driver license or ID card should plan ahead by contacting the federal facility to determine what identification is required.

Is a REAL ID driver license or ID card required for foreign citizens entering North Carolina?

No, but foreign citizens must have a passport recognized by the U.S. government to enter North Carolina.

Will my scanned birth certificate and other identifying information be shared?

No, your documents will not be shared.

Are all North Carolina residents required to obtain a REAL ID driver license or ID card?

No. REAL ID licenses and ID cards are not mandatory.