REAL ID UPDATE

Preparing to get a REAL ID

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

- Birth Certificates: Make sure it has a raised seal and parent names. If you need help obtaining a Pennsylvania Birth Certificate, please contact my office. We can help you in ordering one.

- Social Security Cards: For information about your Social Security card and how to obtain a replacement, visit www.ssa.gov/ssnumber/. You can also visit the Social Security Office at 41 North 4th Street in Allentown.

- Documents to prove legal name changes include marriage licenses or court order issued by the respective county’s family courts. Contact those county courts directly for those documents.

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. REAL ID is optional for Pennsylvania residents, so you can choose to keep your driver’s license or identification card without changing anything. However, if you do not get a REAL ID, you must have an alternate form of federally acceptable identification (valid passport, military ID, etc.) to do the things listed above after October 1, 2020.

To get REAL ID, you can bring your REAL ID documentation to any PennDOT Driver License Center for verification NOW. In March 2019 you will then be able to order your REAL ID online – no need to go back to the license center. PennDOT will use your most recent photo on file and your REAL ID will arrive in the mail in 7-10 business days.

There will be three ways to obtain a REAL ID:

- Visit PENNDOT.gov/REALID to pre-verify.
- 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.
- In the spring of 2019, visit a REAL ID Center to have your documents verified and imaged. One is scheduled to open near Allentown.

REAL ID Cost & Expiration

PennDOT has determined the one-time fee for people who wish to make their license or photo identification REAL ID-compliant will be $30. This is to cover the costs of staff and equipment PennDOT will incur for REAL ID compliance. Standard renewal fees (currently $30.50) for licenses and identification will apply. If you renewed your license recently, you will receive a new full renewal for an additional four years if you opt into REAL ID. Customers will not “lose” time if they renew their license or ID before obtaining a REAL ID product.

Want to Learn More?

To get the most up-to-date, accurate information about REAL ID in Pennsylvania, visit PENNDOT.gov/REALID. Visit my website to learn more about REAL ID and decide if it’s right for you. You can also email me at RepSchlossberg@pahouse.com to be added to my REAL ID distribution list. We will send periodic updates throughout 2019.
You Do NOT Need a REAL ID

To: Drive, Vote, Access hospitals, Visit the Post Office, Access Federal Courts, Apply for or Receive Federal Benefits.

To get a REAL ID in Pennsylvania

You Will Need:

Choose 1 Proof of Identity:
- Certificate of Birth
- Passport

Choose 2 Acceptable Proofs of PA Residency:
- Current PA Driver's License/ID Card
- Bank Statement (no more than 90 days old)
- W-2 Form or Pay Stub
- Tax Records
- Lease Agreement or Mortgage Documents
- AND Proof of all Legal Name Changes (if applicable)
- Certified Marriage Certificate
- Court Order

Learn more at PennDOT.gov/REALID

To: Drive, Vote, Access hospitals, Visit the Post Office, Access Federal Courts, Apply for or Receive Federal Benefits.

Standard ID or DL REAL ID ID or DL

Driving (DL only) ✓ ✓ ✓
General Identification Purposes ✓ ✓ ✓
Boarding a Domestic (U.S.) Flight after October 1, 2020 X ✓ ✓
Entering a Federal Facility (that requires ID) or Military Base X ✓ ✓
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Do you think you will need a REAL ID?

The best thing you can do to prepare is to gather necessary identity and residency documents now and keep them in a safe place.

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