



What you need to know about the Illinois REAL ID Program

For Illinois residents who fly domestically, effective **May 7, 2025**, the federal government will require you to use a valid U.S. passport or obtain a REAL ID from the Illinois Secretary of State's office. Not every person needs a REAL ID card, which is why we offer you a choice. You decide if you need a REAL ID or standard DL/ID.

The application process for a REAL ID-compliant driver's license/identification card requires enhanced security measures that meet mandated federal guidelines. Even if you already have a standard DL/ID, you must provide documentation confirming your identity, Social Security number, residency and signature.

If you want to apply for a REAL ID, please come prepared with the necessary documents. Please visit our website at REALID.ilsos.gov and use the interactive document checklist to help ensure you bring in the right documents to the Driver Services facility. In addition, please be patient as the process takes longer at the facility due to the multiple documents required by the federal government.

Sincerely,

Alexi Giannoulias
Secretary of State

Action	Standard DL/ID	REAL ID DL/ID
Driving (DL only)	YES	YES
Using for general identification purposes	YES	YES
Boarding a domestic flight (U.S.) after May 7, 2025	NO	YES
Entering a military base or secure federal facility	NO	YES

For additional information:

833-503-4074

or visit:

REALID.ilsos.gov



ALEXI GIANNOULIAS
Secretary of State

Know your options before choosing your next driver's license or state ID card.



REAL ID

goes into effect
May 7, 2025.

Your current Illinois driver's license or ID card (DL/ID) will be accepted at airports until **May 7, 2025**. We are providing you with the choice either to obtain a REAL ID card or to keep a standard card. Take time to know your options.

You **NEED** a REAL ID if:

- You do **not** have a valid U.S. passport or passport card; AND
- You use airplanes as a mode of domestic transportation; or
- You visit military bases; or
- You visit secure federal facilities.

You **DO NOT NEED** a REAL ID if:

- You have a valid U.S. passport or passport card; or
- You do **not** use airplanes as a mode of domestic transportation; or
- You do **not** visit military bases; or
- You do **not** visit secure federal facilities.

Know your options.

Make the choice that is right for you.

Federal Limits Apply



Application Process for Standard Driver's License or ID

If your DL/ID is currently valid and not expiring soon, you do not need to do anything.

STEP 1: If your DL/ID is expiring soon, visit a Secretary of State Driver Services facility and take your photo and the required exams.

STEP 2: Receive a temporary, secure paper DL/ID at the facility.

STEP 3: After review and verification of documents have been conducted, your new permanent standard DL/ID will be mailed to you within 15 business days.

Fees for a Real ID and a standard DL/ID are the same.



For domestic travel, a U.S. passport or a REAL ID card is acceptable. For international travel, a U.S. passport is necessary.

For additional information about passports:
npic@state.gov or **877-487-2778**.



REAL ID
Gold Star
Designation

Application Process for REAL ID Driver's License or ID

STEP 1: Visit a Secretary of State Driver Services facility and take your photo and the required exams.

STEP 2: All applicants must provide proof of identity. (Examples are: a certified U.S. birth certificate, a U.S. passport, an employment authorization document, a permanent resident card or a foreign passport with an approved I-94 form.) *Name change documents, such as **certified copies of a marriage certificate**, etc., will be required if the applicant presents a certified birth certificate with a name different from his/her current name. Please note: **Multiple name change documents will be required if your name has changed multiple times.**

STEP 3: All applicants must provide proof of full Social Security number (SSN). (Examples are: an SSN card, a W-2 or a pay stub with full SSN.)

STEP 4: All applicants must provide two current residency documents with the applicant's name. (Examples are: a utility bill, rental agreement, deed/title or bank statement.)

STEP 5: All applicants must provide proof of signature. (Examples are: a credit/debit card, canceled check or current Illinois DL/ID.)

STEP 6: Receive a temporary, secure paper DL/ID at the facility. *Please note that the TSA and federal agents will not accept the paper document.

STEP 7: After review and verification of documents have been conducted, your new permanent REAL ID card will be mailed to you within 15 business days.

*For a complete list of acceptable documents for steps 2-5, please visit: [REALID.ilsos.gov](https://www.reality.ilsos.gov)