



DRIVER LICENSING REGIONAL OFFICES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What has changed?

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has implemented a new driver licensing issuance model to obtain a Kentucky driving or state identification card. Now, instead of visiting the Office of the Circuit Court Clerk in the county where you live, all Kentuckians must visit a Driver Licensing Regional Office to apply for or renew a driver's license, permit or ID card.

Who does this change impact?

The change applies to any Kentucky resident who wants to apply for or renew an operator's license, commercial license, motorcycle license, combination license, learner's permit, or ID card (same as Voter ID).

Where are the new regional offices?

Driver Licensing Regional Offices are strategically located in different areas of the state. They are not in every county (similar to most DMV models in other states). A list of locations is available at bit.ly/KYTCScheduleAnAppt. Kentuckians may visit ANY regional office location to renew or replace their ID or apply for the first time (if they have already completed driver testing with the Kentucky State Police).

Where do I go for driver testing?

Kentucky State Police continue to oversee all written and road testing. Testing locations are in Driver Licensing Regional Offices. To make a testing appointment, visit <http://kentuckystatepolice.org/driver-testing>.

What's different about the process when I visit a regional office?

Where you go:

Kentuckians will visit a Driver Licensing Regional Office to request, renew, or replace a driving or identity credential. You may visit any regional office across the state. Scheduling an appointment is advised. Walk-ins are accepted at most locations until capacity is reached.

How you apply for/renew/replace your card:

Kentuckians can choose to renew an existing card online, by mail or in person at a Driver Licensing Regional Office. Visit drive.ky.gov to compare the services offered through each renewal option. The process remains the same if you seek a standard credential. Simply present the necessary documentation if applying for the first time or turn in your standard credential when renewing. If you want to apply for a REAL ID driving credential for the first time, you will need to present specific documentation when applying. Learn more at realidky.com. Kentuckians may request a replacement card through the mail or by visiting a regional office.

How you get your card:

All cards- standard or REAL ID- will not be issued over the counter the same day you visit an office. Applicants will receive a temporary document that will serve as their ID until the permanent card arrives in the mail 10-15 business days later. If the applicant already has a Kentucky ID, it will be given back with a hole punch through the card. This temporary document is recognized by law enforcement and, **when shown with the invalidated card**, is accepted by the Transportation Security Administration to board a commercial flight within the United States.

What are the benefits of a regional office?

The shift is more than a change in locations. The Transportation Cabinet is taking licensing to the next level by providing new, modern services that put Kentuckians in the driver's seat to choose how they want to be served. Here's what to expect at all our Driver Licensing Regional Offices.

- Online appointment scheduling is available at each office to help you plan your day. Walk-ins are welcome at most locations, but capacity is limited.
- Choose between a [REAL ID](#) or new standard card version. REAL ID versions of Kentucky licenses, permits and IDs can be used to pass through airport security checkpoints to board U.S. commercial flights, visit military bases and enter federal buildings that require identification once federal enforcement starts May 7, 2025. Kentuckians with a standard card version must use another form of federal ID, like a passport, to maintain those air travel and federal facility access benefits.
- Kentuckians can renew their driver's license or ID cards online or by mail! Applicants will maintain the same card version they have (upgrading to a REAL ID requires an in-person office visit). Learn more about the benefits of each renewal option at [drive.ky.gov](#).
- Choose a card that lasts for **four or eight years!**
- Visit **ANY** regional office, regardless of where you live in Kentucky.
- Periodic **"Popup Driver Licensing"** visits will occur in counties without a regional office to offer on-site application and renewal services.
- Licensing is our **only** business. Our focus is on providing an excellent, uniform experience across our network of offices.
- Cards offered at regional offices have a new look that provides state-of-the-art security to better protect your information.
- No more waiting for your card to be printed after taking your photo. You'll get a temporary document at the end of your transaction and the permanent card will be sent to you in the mail. This change improves security in the card issuance process.

What do I do if I need to renew my license, but the next available appointment date at the nearest location is not until after my card expires?

Kentuckians may visit ANY Driver Licensing Regional Office, regardless of the county where they live. Walk-in customers are accepted at most locations but at a limited capacity. As a reminder, Kentuckians may renew their driving credential up to six months before their card is scheduled to expire.

If your name and address have not changed from what is listed on your current license and you want to maintain the same card version you have, you may renew online. You can also renew by mail and request an address change. Learn more at [drive.ky.gov](#).

Why have things changed?

The Office of the Circuit Court Clerk has historically issued and renewed licenses and fulfilled court duties in the Judicial branch. They asked the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to assume license issuance, and [HB 453](#), passed in 2020, transferred licensing responsibilities to the Transportation Cabinet. This shifts the state from a decentralized issuance model to a centralized model that offers more uniformity and opportunities for modernization in offices solely focused on licensing.



Schedule your appointment

by visiting our website or scan the QR code above with the your phone's camera or QR code app.

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