



When Applying for a REAL ID Card

PRESENT DOCUMENTS

Applicants must provide (1) proof of identity, (1) proof of social security, and (2) proofs of residency. Carefully review the full list of accepted documentation for a REAL ID you need to gather before applying; additional documentation, like a marriage certificate or divorce decree, may be necessary.

ARRIVE IN THE MAIL

Residents will visit a Driver Licensing Regional Office to apply for a new credential. The requested credential will arrive in the mail at the address provided by the applicant 10-15 business days later.

TEMPORARY DOCUMENT

Applicants will leave the regional office with a 30-day temporary printed document and a hole-punched version of their current card to use until the requested credential arrives in the mail.

EXTENDED SHELF-LIFE

REAL IDs are available in four or eight-year lifespans.

PRICING

The cost of REAL ID credentials accounts for the extended renewal cycle and additional security improvements. Kentuckians with a credential more than six months from expiring the date they apply may pay \$15 to upgrade to a REAL ID credential that maintains their current credential's expiration date.

ONLINE LICENSE RENEWAL

REAL ID cardholders may renew their license online if their name and address haven't changed. Visit drive.ky.gov



The REAL ID Act is a federal law to enhance the security of state-issued driving credentials. Starting **May 7, 2025**, all Kentucky standard driver's licenses and IDs (cards that don't display a star icon) will no longer be accepted to board commercial flights within the U.S., or enter into military bases, nuclear power plants or any federal building that requires identification. Kentuckians who want to maintain these travel and access benefits have a choice! They can either use an approved federal form of identification (like a passport, passport card or military ID) OR use a Kentucky REAL ID. REAL IDs are driver's licenses, permits or identification cards (featuring a star icon) accepted for domestic air travel, military base entry and entry into restricted federal buildings. Kentuckians who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents may apply for a REAL ID at any Driver Licensing Regional Office across the state.

What You Need to Apply for a REAL ID

1 PROOF OF IDENTITY

Certified birth certificate, passport, permanent resident card, etc. (no photocopies, applicants under 18 must provide birth certificate)



2 PROOFS OF RESIDENCY

KY driver's license with current home address, utility bill (must be less than 1 year old), etc.



1 PROOF OF SOCIAL SECURITY



Social Security card, current tax year W-2 or 1099 form (no photocopies of social security card, SSN may not be handwritten)

1 PROOF OF NAME CHANGE (if applicable)



If the current legal name is not displayed on all of the proof documents, bring legal document linking the name change (marriage license, court order)

Kentuckians applying for a REAL ID card must present one (1) valid proof of identity, one (1) valid proof of social security number and two (2) valid proofs of residency. If an applicant's name or gender doesn't match on the proof documents, additional documentation (like a marriage certificate or divorce decree) may be required. **A detailed list of acceptable documents is available at realidky.com.** The online IDocument Guide quiz provides a customized list of documents an applicant will need to present. Some acceptable documents have strict requirements (i.e. no photocopies of birth certificates, documents must be unexpired).





COST

The cost of all identity credentials has changed to factor in the doubled life cycle and enhanced security features. Cards with a four-year lifespan are half the cost of an eight-year credential.

New standard driver's license

\$43 → 8 years valid

New standard personal ID card

\$23 → 8 years valid

New standard motorcycle license

\$43 → 8 years valid

REAL ID driver's license

\$48 → 8 years valid

REAL ID personal ID

\$28 → 8 years valid

REAL ID motorcycle license

\$48 → 8 years valid

CDL costs vary by type and endorsement combination. Contact the Division of Driver Licensing CDL section for more details at (502) 564-1257.

Non-U.S. citizens may obtain any standard credential for the listed cost, plus a \$30 application fee. Visit drive.ky.gov for more information.

Federally Approved Cards

Acceptable forms of ID for U.S. commercial air travel include the following valid and unexpired credentials:

1. Kentucky's REAL ID card versions or other federally approved cards offered by other states
2. U.S. passport
3. U.S. passport card
4. DHS trusted traveler card (Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI, FAST)
5. U.S. Department of Defense ID, including IDs issued to dependents
6. Permanent resident card
7. Border crossing card
8. DHS-designated enhanced driver's license
9. Federally recognized, tribal-issued photo ID
10. HSPD-12 PIV card
11. Foreign government-issued passport
12. Canadian provincial driver's license or Indian/Northern Affairs Canada card
13. Transportation worker identification credential (TWIC®)
14. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Employment Authorization Card (I-766)
15. U.S. Merchant Mariner Credential
16. Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)

Kentucky REAL ID

Kentucky STANDARD CREDENTIAL

✓	 Driving (licenses, permits)	✓
✓	 Voting	✓
✓	 Age-restricted purchases	✓
✓	 Accessing federal & social benefits (Social Security offices, VA hospitals, etc.)	✓
✓	 U.S. air travel (Starting May 7, 2025)	✗
✓	 Visiting military bases, nuclear power plants and federal buildings that require identification starting May 7, 2025	✗

Military bases and federal buildings like the White House, which require ID, will accept REAL IDs. For a list of other acceptable forms of identification, contact the base or building directly before visiting.

KYTC Driver Licensing Regional Offices

Kentuckians may request REAL ID or standard (non REAL ID compliant) credentials at any Driver Licensing Regional Office statewide. Applicants are encouraged to schedule an appointment online. Walk-ins are accepted.

A complete list of licensing offices and online scheduling is available at www.realidky.com. Offices are open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

License Renewal vs. Upgrade

If you request a REAL ID and your current license expires within six months of the date you apply, you may **renew** your license for either four or eight years. If your current license expires more than six months from the date you apply, you may pay \$15 to **upgrade** to the REAL ID license that will keep the same expiration date as your current card (you're eligible to renew your license once you're within your six-month renewal period).

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