Minnesota REAL ID

Minnesotans will be able to apply for REAL ID-compliant driver’s licenses and ID cards Oct. 1, 2018, but they will have two years to obtain one. That’s because the state is on track to meet the requirements of the federal REAL ID Act. The federal government won’t require all driver’s licenses and IDs to be REAL ID-compliant for federal use until Oct. 1, 2020.

• REAL ID-compliant cards are optional.

• Minnesotans should be able to use their standard driver’s license or identification cards for domestic air travel or access to federal facilities until Oct. 1, 2020.

• If a Minnesotan chooses to apply for a REAL ID before their standard license expires, an early renewal fee would be charged and an additional four years would be added to the expiration date. The early renewal fee, set in Minnesota law, is based on how many months the REAL ID is obtained before a person’s driver’s license or ID card expires.
  • $2 for a renewal 17 months before expiration.
  • $4 for a renewal 18-29 months before expiration.
  • $6 for a renewal more than 29 months before expiration.

For more information about Minnesota’s new driver’s license and ID card, visit dvs.dps.mn.gov.

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Driver and Vehicle Services
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Cover Photo Credit: Aaron Huber
The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Driver and Vehicle Services division (DPS-DVS) will begin issuing redesigned driver’s licenses and identification (ID) cards. These cards will be available at all driver’s license service centers statewide and will replace the previous design.

Minnesotans do not need to replace their current driver’s license or ID card, unless their card is expiring, or they need to change their address or name.

Minnesotans will be able to use their current license and ID card until the expiration date on the card.

The cost of the new cards is the same as the old cards.

**DESIGNATED HEADER COLORS**

There is a designated color for the text showing the card type. The same color is used for a commercial and standard driver’s licenses. Red is used for an adult cardholder and black is used for a minor cardholder.

**SECURE CARD FEATURES**

The new design includes new security and data features.

- **Security Design**: The custom background design incorporates the breaking rocks of the Headwater along the Mississippi River with images of a pine forest and a canoeist enjoying the state’s natural resources.
- **Ghost Image**: There is a repeat image of the cardholder’s portrait. If the VETERAN indicator is applicable, it will overlap the bottom of this feature.
- **Indicators may print in these locations, as applicable:**
  - Living Will/Healthcare Directive
  - Veteran 100% T&P (Totally & Permanently disabled)
  - Dept. of Natural Resources, regular and Lifetime fields

**NEW CARD ORIENTATION**

A vertical driver’s license or ID card will be issued to anyone under age 21. This provides a quick reference that the cardholder is a minor. Vertical license and ID cards are currently used in 46 other states.

- Under 18 and Under 21 indicators display below the portrait.
- UNDER 18 UNTIL, with appropriate date, displays as black text in a yellow bar.
- UNDER 21 UNTIL, with appropriate date, displays as white text in a red bar.

**U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security REAL ID indicators**: Every new card will feature one of the following indicators to comply with federal REAL ID Act:

- Indicates the card is a fully compliant REAL ID.
- NOT FOR FEDERAL IDENTIFICATION indicates the card is non-compliant.
- TEMPORARY indicates the cardholder is in the United States on a temporary basis.

**ADDITIONAL FEATURES**

- Senior Indicator: Someone 65 years or older may request their license be marked SENIOR. An ID card for someone 65 years or older may have LIFETIME instead of an Expiration date.

- Senior, Veteran, Temporary indicators:
  - A = Metro Mobility
  - L = Limited Mobility
  - M = Medical Alert
  - P = Standby or Temporary Custodian
  - T = Senior Citizen Transportation Reduced Fare

- Some cards may be issued without a photo. Those cards will feature one of the above images in place of the photo.

- *CLP = Commercial Learner’s Permit

- **Indicators may print in these locations, as applicable:**
  - Living Will/Healthcare Directive
  - Veteran 100% T&P (Totally & Permanently disabled)
  - Dept. of Natural Resources, regular and Lifetime fields