

Driver's License Renewals - Frequently Asked Questions

Q: My Minnesota driver's license or state ID is expiring but I am unable to go to an office to renew it because of COVID-19. What should I do?

A: You may renew or replace a standard driver's license or state ID online at drive.mn.gov.

You will need to visit a driver's license office if you wish to upgrade to REAL ID, or to change your name or address. You should pre-apply online at drive.mn.gov before visiting an office to save time at the counter and confirm the documents they are required to bring to the office to complete their application.

Visit the [locations](#) section of our website to find more information on the closest office to you and if they require an appointment.

Note: Governor Tim Walz signed two bills into law that extended the expiration dates of driver's licenses, state IDs and permits that expire between March 13, 2020 and January 31, 2021. Those cards will expire on March 31, 2021. DPS-DVS is mailing a renewal reminder to affected card holders.

Q: Do I have to get a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or state ID?

A: No. A REAL ID-compliant driver's license or state ID is **not** needed for the following:

- Being licensed to drive.
- Voting or registering to vote.
- Entering federal facilities that do not require a person to present identification.
- Applying or receiving federal benefits.
- Accessing health or life-preserving services (including hospitals and health clinics), law enforcement or constitutionally-protected activities (including a defendant's access to court proceedings).
- Participating in law enforcement proceedings or investigations.

You will need a passport, passport card, REAL ID, enhanced driver's license or another [acceptable form of identification for federal purposes](#), to board domestic flights or enter federal facilities starting Oct. 1, 2021. More information about REAL ID is available on the DPS-DVS website at dvs.dps.mn.gov.

Applying for a REAL ID requires additional documentation mandated by federal law. The [complete list of required documents](#) is available at dvs.dps.mn.gov.

Q: What has Minnesota done to plan for REAL ID?

A: The REAL ID federal law was passed by congress in 2005. DPS-DVS received legislative authorization to begin REAL ID implementation in 2017. On October 1, 2018, a new driver's license system launched that allows Minnesotans to obtain a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or state ID. This new system integrates with the Social Security Administration's database, reduces the number of duplicate records, and identifies potential fraud. This system was updated again on November 16, 2020 as it became part of the [new Minnesota Drive \(MNDRIVE\) system](#).

Q: I can't renew my driver's license or state ID because the information on my application doesn't match the information on my DVS record. What should I do?

A: You will need to update the information on your DVS record to match the information on your application. Updating this information will require you to visit a driver's license office or DVS exam station. To find more information on the closest office to you and if they require an appointment, visit the [locations](#) section of our website.

Scenarios and next steps:

- If your information on the DVS record does not match the information on the Social Security Administration (SSA) record:
 - Correct your information with the agency that does not have your correct and current legal name and date of birth. You will receive a letter on what your next steps are at the time of your DL application attempt.
 - If your name is correct with SSA but wrong with DVS, you will need to provide documents supporting your current legal name to allow the correction to occur with DVS.
 - If your name or date of birth is not correct with SSA but correct with DVS, you will need to contact SSA at 1-888-847-0392 or 1-800-772-1213, for further assistance.

- If your date of birth is wrong with DVS:
 - Provide a certified copy of your birth certificate, unexpired U.S. passport, or unexpired foreign passport along with legal status documents for DVS to correct your date of birth.
 - If you were born in Minnesota, you can get a copy of your birth certificate from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Visit the MDH website at <https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/vitalrecords/index.html>. You may also call MDH at 651-201-5000. Interpreters are available.
 - If you were not born in Minnesota, you will need to contact the vital records department in the state in which you were born.
 - If you need to renew or update your US passport see the website below for more information <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/have-passport/renew.html>

- If your current legal name does not match the information in our system:
 - Provide supporting documents to correct your name. Supporting documents may include a certified marriage certificate, certified divorce decree or certified copy of a court order for name change.

- If there are any other issues that will cause your application to not be accepted you will receive a letter with more information from the DVS representative assisting you.

Q: What if there is a problem with my social security number?

- To correct a social security number (SSN), present your SSN card at the time of your application. The DVS representative assisting you will make the change and proceed with your application.
- DVS can remove a SSN from your DVS record if you no longer have one. You will need to provide another form of [primary and secondary identification](#) to proceed with your application. You will find more information about accepted identification documents on the DPS-DVS website at dvs.dps.mn.gov.

Q: What if I can't provide documentation to support a correction?

A: DPS-DVS processes applications based on the information provided by the applicant. If there is incomplete or incorrect information in the record, the driver's license or ID assigned will be invalidated.

Q: I've already given you these documents before, why do I need to provide them again?

A: DPS-DVS is required by law to retain applications for five years. New copies are required if the documents were submitted more than five years ago.

Q: Who can I speak to if I need assistance with a driver's license or state ID application?

A: Please reach out to DPS-DVS.

- By phone: (651) 297-3298
- By email: dvs.driverslicenses@state.mn.us

*Limited interpreter services are available upon request. This may require a follow-up appointment to be scheduled.