



Minnesota Statute Section 171.27 permits active service members in any branch or unit of the armed forces serving outside the state to continue to use their Minnesota driver's license without renewal up to one year after their separation or discharge from active duty. The driver's license must be valid (not expired; not revoked or canceled) on the date of entry into military service. The driver's license must be accompanied by the In-Service letter from Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) in order to be valid after the expiration date. The spouse of the service member may also receive an In-Service letter if she/he has a valid Minnesota driver's license and is living outside Minnesota.

How to apply for an In-Service letter

An active service member should send the following information to DVS:

1. Full name (include any name-change documents if name on driver's license is different)
2. Date of birth
3. Driver's license number (include a photocopy of the front and back of the license, if possible)
4. Home address
5. Current mailing address
6. Proof of date of entry into military service (must include the month, day, and year of entry)

The spouse of an active service member, in addition to items 1-6 above, should also provide copies of their:

- proof of marriage
- name-change documents if name on driver's license is different
- military ID

Submitting your documents

Send your information by mail to:

Minnesota Department of Public Safety
Driver and Vehicle Services
445 Minnesota Street, Suite 175
St. Paul, MN 55101

Or, you may upload it through our e-Services website at dvs.dps.mn.gov. Have your driver's license number available and select the option to upload miscellaneous forms.

Please do not send original documents, as they will not be returned to you.

What to do when you leave military service?

You or your spouse have up to one year from the date of discharge or separation from the military to apply for a new Minnesota driver's license. Bring your Minnesota driver's license and your DD214 military discharge papers with you to a driver's license office. If it has been more than one year since your discharge, but fewer than five years, you will be required to retake the knowledge test. If it has been more than five years since your discharge, you will be required to also take a skills test.

Still have questions?

- Visit DVS at dps.mn.gov
- Email: dvs.driverslicense@state.mn.us
- Call 651-297-3298
- Call 651-282-6555 (TDD/TYY for hearing impaired)