REAL ID

A REAL Choice for Virginians

Deciding whether to renew your standard driver's license or identification card or apply for a REAL ID compliant driver's license or ID card? The following information can help you make the right choice for you.

What is REAL ID?

The REAL ID Act is a federal law that affects how states issue driver's licenses and ID cards if they are going to be accepted for federal purposes, such as boarding domestic flights or entering secure military installations or federal facilities that require ID.

REAL ID is optional for Virginians.

You can get either a REAL ID license or ID or a standard driver's license or ID. If you do not get a REAL ID, you must have an alternate form of federally accepted identification (valid U. S. passport, military ID, Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC), etc.) to board domestic flights and enter federal facilities after October 1, 2020.

Credential comparison at-a-glance	Contraction Contraction Contraction Contraction	Flueton	CONTRACTOR OF CO
		Standard license	REAL ID license
Driving		v	✓
Voting or registering to vote		v	✓
Verifying identity at banks,utility companies and retail stores		v	\checkmark
Applying for or receiving federal benefits		✓	\checkmark
Accessing health or life preserving services		✓	\checkmark
Entering federal facilities that require ID after Oct. 1, 2020		×	\checkmark
Accessing military bases after Oct. 1, 2020		×	✓
Boarding domestic flights after Oct. 1, 2020		×	✓

Here's what you need to get a REAL ID:

The process is similar to Virginia's current original driver's license/ID card application process. All applicants for a REAL ID compliant credential, including current Virginia credential holders, must apply in-person and provide DMV with physical documentation of the applicant's:

- Identity (e.g. unexpired U.S. passport or U.S. birth certificate)
- Legal presence (e.g. unexpired U.S. passport or U.S. birth certificate)
- Social Security Number (e.g. Social Security card or payroll check stub)
- Residency (two proofs will be required) (e.g. utility bills or mortgage statements)
- Proof of any name changes (e.g. marriage certificates or divorce decrees)

Note: If the name on your identity document is different than your legal name, you must show proof of your name change.

For a complete list of accepted documents, visit dmvNOW.com/REALID.

About your REAL ID credential:

REAL ID credentials are available for a one-time \$10 fee, in addition to standard driver's license or identification card fees.

In the upper right corner, REAL ID compliant credentials will be marked with a **star**, while non-REAL ID compliant credentials will instead display "**Federal Limits Apply**," in order to comply with federal law.



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