California Drivers License Guide
Congratulations on your 60 day membership to our Roadside Assistance.
When out on the road, you will know that you are covered and protected by an organization that cares about the safety of you and your family. Our customer service representatives respond quickly to provide you the best service and protection available anywhere.

**24-Hour Emergency Roadside Assistance Benefits**
Customers are covered for emergency road service throughout the U.S. and Canada.

**24-Hour Towing Service**
Customers are entitled to emergency towing service at no out-of-pocket cost for any tow up to 75 dollars. One service per seven days, two services per contract. Extended distance will be an additional expense covered by the customer.

**24-Hour Mechanical First Aid**
Customers are entitled to any service requiring minor adjustments (exclusive of parts) to enable a disabled vehicle to proceed under its own power, where available.

**24-Hour Tire Change Service**
Customers may have their tire changed with their inflated and functional spare tire.
24-Hour Emergency Delivery
A service truck will deliver emergency supplies of gasoline, water, oil or other necessary supplies. Customers pay only for the cost of the supplies.

24-Hour Emergency Battery Service
Customers are covered for battery boosts and minor adjustments to alternators, starters, etc. while on the road.

24-Hour Lost Key Service
If keys are locked inside a customer’s vehicle, the customer will be assisted in gaining entry to the vehicle’s passenger compartment only. Locksmith services may be dispatched as needed at the customer’s expense for labor and key making.

Rental Car Discounts
Customers are entitled to take advantage of our rental car discount codes and pre-negotiated group rates, which are honored at thousands of locations throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Map Routing Service
We will, at no charge, provide customers with a four-color mapping and travel route information to destinations they specify.

Theft And Hit & Run Protection
A $500 reward is offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone responsible for Hit & Run damages or stealing customers’ vehicles. Whenever you travel, you will like the secure and confident feeling of knowing that you are protected by NSD’s Roadside Assistance. Fast response and excellent service are just two reasons why millions of motorists rely on NSD’s Roadside Assistance for on-the-road protection.
Keeping You Safe Mile After Mile

Once your purchase is processed, you will receive an email with the information you will need to start your 60 days of Road Assistance.

Congratulations!
Redeem Your $25 Gas Card Online

Follow the link in your confirmation email to start redeeming your $25 Gas Coupon.

*PLEASE SAVE ALL THE INFORMATION FOR YOUR RECORDS. You will use your log in information throughout the course of your complimentary gas membership.
# Table Of Contents

- Starting the Journey
  - Page 6
- Getting Your First California License
  - Page 15
- Renewing Your License
  - Page 23
- Updating Your License or Identification Card Information
  - Page 29
- Replacing Your Lost/Stolen Driver License
  - Page 32
- Reinstating Your Driver’s License
  - Page 35
- Getting a California ID Card
  - Page 38
- Vehicle Safety Tips
  - Page 40
- Official Forms
  - Page 42
- DMV Hours and Locations
  - Page 43
Being a new driver can be both exciting and frightening at the same time.

There are so many new rules and responsibilities to consider. Being able to legally drive is a freedom that allows you to see new horizons — both literally and figuratively. However, with this new freedom come the dangers of the road and the many responsibilities you hold as a traffic participant alongside your fellow drivers. To ensure that you are prepared to the utmost of your ability, it is first necessary for you to legally obtain a driver’s license.

Going through the process of getting a license to drive will ensure that you are completely prepared to undertake your role as a driver that is both well informed and perfectly prepared to face the challenges that exist on the road. The process may seem exhaustive at first, but with this guide, you will be able to obtain your license while cutting through the confusion, as every step will be carefully laid out for you. Continue on to get essential information that will lead to you becoming a California licensed driver.
All Drivers

Drivers who are looking to get a driving license in California must first follow the basic steps listed below to ensure that they have covered the necessary documentation, fees and examinations. This important first step of preparation is necessary to take before continuing on in the process of applying for a driver’s license.

How to Apply

In order for you to begin the process of applying for your driver’s license or driver’s permit, you must first follow these steps:

- **Visit a local DMV office.**
- **Pick up a Driver License or Identification Card Application (known as the DL 44 form) and fill it out.**
- **Submit the completed and signed form DL 44 at the DMV office.**
- **Have your thumbprint taken.**
- **Have your picture taken.**
- **Provide your Social Security Number.**

The specific steps to get a driver’s license are listed below as they vary based on factors such as age and the status of your driving credential.
In order to obtain your driver’s license or permit, you must be able to pass the DMV vision exam. This exam requires you to have 20/40 vision in both eyes or 20/40 in one eye and at least 20/70 in the other, with or without corrective lenses. The California DMV will also measure either an original or a renewal driver’s license applicant for visual acuity. Visual acuity refers to the sharpness of an individual’s sight. Applicants who do not meet the minimum vision screening standard as stated above must have a visual acuity of at least 20/200 in one eye. The applicant may wear corrective lenses to meet this requirement but he or she may not qualify for licensure wearing bioptic, telescopic or other lenses of the sort.

In order to obtain a license, you will also be required to pass a written exam that showcases your knowledge of traffic laws, road signs and rules of safe driving in California. The exam is available to be taken in written or audio format and is available in multiple languages.

This exam is straightforward and only requires that you correctly answer 38 questions out of 46 multiple choice questions. Your application fee covers the first exam attempt, and every exam afterwards up to two retries costs an additional $6. You are given three chances to pass the exam; afterwards, you are required to restart the entire application process from the beginning. If you are simply renewing your license, in some cases, the renewal notice may state that you need to take the written exam once again. In this case, the exam will only have 18 multiple-choice questions and must contain three errors or less to result in a passing score. If you would like to take samples of the written test in both English and Spanish click here.
Teen Driver

If you are 15 ½ to 18 years of age, then this is the place for you. Being a teen driver is an exciting first experience that makes up part of most teen’s lives. The entire process marks a point of growth in a teen’s life and the beginning of their lives as an adult as they begin to explore the world and their neighborhood with fewer restrictions. But, of course, before this entire process can begin, a teen will first need to become well-prepared for the responsibilities that come with his or her newfound freedom in the world. A thorough understanding of vehicle and road laws, as well as safety rules, is required before a teen can set off in the world of driving. This chapter will help both teens and parents to prepare themselves for this transition so that both can feel comfortable and safe in their new journey.

Step 1: Driver Education

Before obtaining a permit or driver’s license, a teen driver needs to complete a driver education course with the following minimum requirements:

25 hours of classroom instruction

You can complete this requirement through either:

• A California high school driver’s ed course
• An approved internet program that meets the state minimum of 25 hours
• A state-licensed driving school course

Complete a total of six hours of driver training that cannot exceed two hours per day.

* The time spent being in a car observing another driver does not count toward the six-hour behind-the-wheel training requirement.

Tip

Choose a driving school in an area in which the streets and environment are familiar to you.
Step 2: Driving Permit

After completing driver’s education, a teen is now ready to begin his or her application to obtain a provisional permit by following these steps:

Teens at least 15 ½ years old, but younger than 17 ½ years old, are required to provide one of the following proofs of having completed driver’s education in order to obtain their provisional permit:

- ✔ Completed driver’s education course certificate
- ✔ Completed driver education and driver training certificate
- ✔ Proof of enrollment and participation in an approved driver training program

Note

Teens between 17 1/2 and 18 years of age may obtain a driving permit without having to provide proof of driver education. However, they will not be eligible to take the road test until they have reached 18 years of age.
Fees and Written Exams

The application fee of $33 covers three written exams taken over a 12-month period for both the instruction permit and the driver license, meaning you can take the written exam up to three times for one fee. You must have at least seven days in between retests. There are 46 questions on the exam, and it is mandatory to get at least 38 questions correct in order to pass and receive a permit.

Tip

Check out this link to take a look at the curriculum that teens should review before taking their exams.
Parent or Guardian Signatures – Accepting Liability for a Minor

Allowing your child younger than 18 years old to obtain a drivers’ license means accepting equal responsibility for any consequences due to resulting accidents he or she may cause while driving. Therefore, the state of California requires that every minor’s application for a driver license be signed by:

- Both parents, if both parents are California residents and have joint custody of the child.
- Both parents, if parents are divorced with joint custody of the child.
- One parent, if only that one parent has custody of the child.
- Guardians of the minor, if neither parent has custody or is living.
- The person(s) having actual full and complete custody, if no legal guardian has been appointed.

The state of California does not allow nonresident parents to sign the application form, or accept liability for a minor to obtain a California driver license. However, nonresident military parents who have been stationed and are currently living in California may sign the application and accept liability for the minor.

Why do parents or guardians have to sign the application? Well, when a parent or guardian signs the application for the minor, he or she is accepting all financial responsibility in the case that the minor is involved in any accidents. Financial responsibility can be maintained through insurance companies which will provide the policyholder with an identification card that can be used as evidence of coverage. This ID card must have the insurance company’s name, address, the period of coverage and the policy number on it.

This financial responsibility carries on the following minimum monetary limits:

- $15,000 for any injury or death of one person per accident.
- $30,000 for any injury or death of two or more persons per accident.
- $5,000 for any property damage per accident.
Fees and Driving Skills Exams

If you fail your driving test, you are required to wait two weeks before you take the test again. You are given three chances to pass the driving test. If you fail all three times, then you are required to re-start the application process from the beginning.

All tests must be marked with an appointment beforehand, or you will not be able to take the test when you arrive. The $33 application fee only covers the first test attempt, afterwards, any extra test costs $7 each.

Tip

Be aware that the DMV does not administer written or audio exams after 4:30 p.m. in order to allow enough time for test takers. So make sure you arrive early to avoid having to rush through your test.
Safety Tips for Teens

The safety of both teens and adult drivers on the road is very important. It is necessary for operators to consider the safety responsibilities they must uphold whilst driving motor vehicles.

Take a look at the following tips for teens regarding driving:

- **Click it or Ticket**
  In the state of California, the use of safety belts is strongly enforced through the Click it or Ticket campaign. Drivers are reminded that if the police catches them unbuckled, they will receive a ticket of a minimum of $162 and up, and a minimum of $465 for not properly restraining a child under 16.

- **Emergency Kit**
  It is important that all drivers have an emergency kit on hand in case of any accident or other type of emergency situation. These kits can be personally created by using these items.

- **Turn off Your Phone**
  One of the biggest distractions for teen drivers is their smartphone, with studies showing that using one’s phone while driving is the equivalent of driving drunk. Therefore, texting, a phone call and any other interactions with your phone can be very detrimental to your safety on the road.

- **Don’t Speed**
  It is estimated that around 30% of fatal teen driving accidents are due to speeding. Hence, speed is a major factor in maintaining safety on the road, so the best course of action to take to avoid traffic accidents is to stick to the designated speed limit. Don’t feel pressured to keep up with other cars if you aren’t comfortable, just make sure you are maintaining your speed below the limit.
Getting Your
First California License

Obtaining a license in California is a very simple process that is both, fast and easy for everyone; all it requires is that you follow a few steps. This chapter will focus on helping adult drivers (18 years or older) in getting a license in the case they have never had a license, or if they have recently become a new California resident and have a license from another state. These steps are straightforward and will have you holding your new license in no time.

Driving Test
Taking a driving test is necessary in order for the DMV to determine your driving skill level. The first part of the exam, which includes a safety check, will show the examiner that your vehicle is road-worthy. When you go to take your driving test, you are required to provide a vehicle that is both insured, and passes the safety requirements. Read the points below to better understand what will happen during your test from start to finish.
The examiner will ask to see the following documents before you begin the test:

- Instruction permit
- Driver education completion certificate (for minors)
- Proof of vehicle insurance
- Vehicle registration
- Any driving credentials issued by another state or country
Afterwards, you will be ready to begin, at the start of the test, your examiner will ask you to perform a safety check. If your vehicle does not pass the safety check, you must reschedule your exam. Driving examiners will check for operations of your vehicle such as the following:

- That turn signals and brake lights are operational
- That tires are not balding
- That the driver’s side window rolls down
- That there are working safety belts

At this point, the driving portion of the exam will officially begin, and the examiner will only act as an observer. The examiner will be marking your scores on the score sheet while you drive, and will also give you instructions ahead of time on what they would like for you to do.

The examiner will ask for you to perform the following critical skills maneuvers:

- Back up
- Stop at controlled and uncontrolled intersections
- Complete left and right-hand turns

During the driving test, the examiner will be observing you to see if you practice the following safe driving tips including the following:

- Steer and accelerate smoothly.
- Signal before lane changes and turns.
- Drive at the appropriate speed limit.
- Drive at the appropriate speed limit.
- Follow at a safe distance.
- Drive defensively.

Once you have returned to the DMV your examiner will tell you whether your driving test was satisfactory (PASS) or unsatisfactory (FAIL). They will go over the score sheet with you, and explain any mistakes or misunderstandings you may have committed. They will also tell you the areas you need to improve upon.

In the event that you receive an unsatisfactory score and fail your test, you will have to reschedule your test for another day, and pay the retest fee of $7.
Tip
Once you pass the driving test or renew your license, you will be given a temporary license that will last 90 days. Afterwards, the DMV will mail you a permanent license. If it does not arrive within 60 days, make sure to contact the DMV at (800) 777-0133 to check on its status.
Adult First-Time Drivers

If you are 18 years or older, have never had a license and are now looking to obtain one, then you have come to the right place. Getting a license as a first-time driver in California is a very simple process that can be initiated by following the steps on how to apply.

First-time drivers will be issued an instruction permit that will allow them to drive with an accompanying adult who is 18 years of age or older. It is illegal for permit holders to drive alone at any time until they obtain full licensure.

In order to officially get your driving license you must pass a road examination. Follow the instructions below to get started.

Make an appointment to take the driving test at your local CA DMV office. You may call 1-800-777-0133 to arrange an appointment by phone or log on to the online appointment system and make one via the Web.

If you arrive in your car you must:

- Provide proof of vehicle registration.
- Provide proof of vehicle insurance.

Fees and Exams

You are given three chances to pass the driving test. If you fail all three times, then you are required to re-submit and go through the application process from scratch. The driving tests do not require you to wait any certain period in between the tests. All tests must however be marked with an appointment beforehand, or you will not be able to take the test when you arrive. The fee you paid through your application of $33 only covers the first test afterwards any extra test costs $7 each.

Note:

Driver’s license applicants are given three chances to pass a driving test. Each additional attempt costs extra.
Adult Drivers With a License From Another State

If you already hold a license from another state and have recently become a resident of California, then you will need to obtain an in-state license within 10 days. It is very important to make sure that you obtain a valid driver’s license within this term; otherwise you risk being ticketed.

First, you need to determine if you are a resident or not. Individuals are usually considered residents once they have been residing in the state on a permanent basis for at least six months in a 12 month period. Driver’s license applicants can also be considered residents if they have met one of the following qualifications:

- Are registered to vote
- Are gainfully employed
- Have filed for homeowner property tax exemption
- Have met one of the other residency qualifications

If you checked off any of these points, then you are considered a resident of California, and will need to apply for a California driver’s license by taking the following steps:

- Obtain a CA instruction permit.
- Provide your out-of-state driving credential in order for it to be invalidated, the driving license will be returned to you.

Note:

Applicants for California driving licenses with credentials from out of the country will be required to take a road test. The road test requirement, however, may be waived for out-of-state driver’s license holders. To schedule a driving test, make an appointment online or by phone at 1-800-777-0133 Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Applicants will be required to provide proof of auto insurance or financial responsibility upon arrival to the exam.
Tip

Making an appointment for any DMV visit is always advised in order to avoid long lines and the stress of waiting.
Teen Drivers Obtaining a Licence

In order to take the driving test, you must first complete the process to get your driver’s permit. Once you have done this, you are then ready to get your driver’s license if you can meet a few requirements that include the following:

- Be 16 years old.
- Hold your license for at least six months prior to the test.
- Complete six hours of professional driving training.
- Complete 50 hours of practice (including 10 hours of nighttime driving) with an adult who is 25 years of age or older.

The adult supervisor must have a valid California license and certify to the completion of the required practice driving time.

Documents

If you meet these basic criteria, then you are ready to take the driving test, but first you must do the following:

- Make an appointment to take the driving test with your DMV office.
  - You may call 1-800-777-0133 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday to make an appointment.
- Arrive in your car and bring the following documents:
  - Proof of vehicle registration
  - Proof of vehicle insurance

Note:

The California DMV does not accept instruction permits issued by another state as proof of having completed driver’s education out of state. Teen drivers relocating must submit either a To Secondary Schools Other Than California Schools form DL 33 that has been completed by the driving school or a signed letter printed on company letterhead that states that its courses meet California standards.
Renewing Your License

“Oh no, my license has expired!”

That is a phrase that no driver wants to utter, as it means you no longer hold a legal license to drive. This means a loss of freedom and the risk of getting a ticket, so it is best to renew your license as soon as you notice the expiration date drawing near.

Thankfully, the process of renewing your license is not only relatively simple and straightforward, but the California DMV also offers all drivers several different ways to renew their license.

This is helpful as it allows you to choose which method best fits your needs and schedule, since not all are capable of renewing in person. Below, are listed the different methods you can use to renew your license and avoid the inconvenience of having it expire:
General

Dates
Renewing your driver’s license is very simple once you have a basic understanding of what is happening and how you can move through the process. First, it is important to understand the basic expiration guidelines of a California driving license.

- Your license will expire every five years on your birthday.
- The DMV will mail a driver’s license renewal notice up to two months prior to the expiration date.
- It is illegal for you to drive with an expired license.
- There are no late fees to renew your license.
- After renewing online, you will receive your driving license via mail within three weeks.
- You CANNOT renew your license online if it has been suspended.
California Military Members

If you are currently an active military member, your license will continue to be valid, regardless of its expiration date, until 30 days after you receive an honorable discharge.

Call the DMV at (916) 657–7790 in order to request an Extension of License for Person in Armed Forces card (DL 236) to update your driving record.

If you are a military member’s dependent whose license is expiring, you can either:

- Request a one-year expiration date extension using the out of state California resident method.
- Renew your license by calling the DMV.

Out-of-State California Residents

If you are a Californian currently living out-of-state, you can simply request a one-year extension free of charge by writing a letter to the Californian DMV requesting an extension before your license expires.

Simply include the following information in the letter:

- Your full name.
- Your California driver’s license number.
- Date of birth.
- Your California address.

Email the letter to the California DMV using the following address:

Department of Motor Vehicles
P.O. Box 942890
Sacramento, CA 94290
Renewing a Permit

California permit holders are not able to renew their credentials, unfortunately. Instead, holders of permits must restart the entire application process, including testing, submitting documents and paying the standard application fee of $33. If you are younger than 18 years of age, then you will also require your parent’s or guardian’s signature on the DL 44 application form.

Renew in Person

**Documents**

The first and most traditional way to renew your license is to visit a California DMV office in person. This process is straightforward and simple if you follow these basic steps and prepare beforehand:

- Make an appointment beforehand for faster service and less hassle.
- Complete a Driver License form (DL 44) or the renewal notice mailed to your address.
- Have your thumbprint and picture taken.
- Pay the $33 application fee.
- Pass a vision exam.
Make sure you check your renewal notice to see if you need to take a written test. If you are required to take the test, don’t panic as you will have three chances to pass. The knowledge test consists of 18 questions and 15 of them must be answered correctly in order for you to receive a passing score.

Renew Online

Another way you can renew your license is by going online to renew it digitally. This is the most modern method, and is becoming more popular with drivers as it requires less time and effort than other traditional methods.

In order to renew your license online you must first receive a Renewal by Mail (RBM) Notice along with a renewal identification number (RIN). If you have received this, then you can renew online if you meet the following requirements:

- Have access to the internet
- Do not have to change your address or personal description
- Have a valid Social Security Number (SSN) on record with the CA DMV
- Have a valid credit card; Visa, Master Card, American Express or Discover

If you have checked off all of the above, then you are officially eligible to renew via the web, all you have to do now is follow these steps:

- Have your RBN notice and credit card ready.
- Visit www.dmv.ca.gov.
- Click on the ‘Online Services’ tab.
- Click on ‘Driver License / Identification Card Renewal’ under the ‘Driver License / ID Card’ header
- Follow the instructions given on the page to renew your driver license

If you require further assistance, visit the official Driver License Internet Renewal FAQ page. Click here to get more information on the process.

Tip

The fee for renewal of a Class C driver license is $33 regardless of which method you use to renew it.
Renew by Mail

The last method you can use to renew your license is through the mail. The DMV will normally send a renewal notice within two months of your driver license’s expiration date to ensure that you have enough time to renew it. In order to be able to renew your license through the mail, you must be able to answer NO to the following questions:

YES or NO?

Will you be 70 years or older by the time your current driver license expires?

Does your driving license expire in more than 60 days?
Are you currently on any form of driving probation or suspension?

Have you violated a written promise to appear in court within the last two years?

Have you already received two consecutive five-year extensions through the mail?

If based on the above questions you are eligible to renew your license through the mail, but have not yet received the notice to renew at your address, please do the following:

- Fill out the California Driver License Renewal by Mail Eligibility Information form (DL 410 FO).
- Mail it to the DMV along with the renewal fee of $33 (either check or money order) to the following address:
  
  **Department of Motor Vehicles**
  
  ATTN: Renewal By Mail Unit
  
  PO Box 942890
  
  Sacramento, CA 94290–0001

**Note:**

Beginning October 1, 2020, individuals will require federally compliant identification to board airplanes or gain access to certain federal facilities. The California DMV will issue REAL ID cards and drivers licenses starting on January 22, 2018. Residents with expiring driver’s licenses and ID cards should receive a notice in the mail to renew their credentials with the option of obtaining a REAL ID. Those who qualify for renewal by mail but do not receive a notice can simply complete form DL 410 FO and mail it to the above address.
As time goes on, you might find yourself changing certain things that might affect the basic information on your driver license, such as your address or your name. So what should you do in cases such as these? Well, it is crucial that you change this information on your license as soon as possible. This critical information can seriously affect the legality of your license if it is not immediately taken care of. Begin the process by following the steps below that best fit your situation.

Changing Your Address

If you have recently moved, you will need to change the address on your driver license, this must be done as soon as possible. By law, you are given 10 days to notify the DMV and change your address.

Driver’s license holders should note that the California DMV does not issue new cards to applicants changing the address on their credentials. Instead, residents can write out their new address on a small piece of paper that has been sign and dated, and carry it along with their driver’s license. There will be no charge for this change.

DO NOT STAPLE OR TAPE THE PAPER TO YOUR DRIVER LICENSE AT ANYTIME!

The following are ways you can update the address information on your CA DMV record:

Online

If you prefer to make an address change online the process is very easy, simply visit the California DMV Change of Address (COA) System and make sure to have either your last issued vehicle or vessel registration card at hand, then begin by clicking the ‘Start’ button at the bottom of the
page. Applicants must submit a DMV change of address request via mail, and they cannot change their address to a temporary mailing address, if the following applies:

- They do not have a California Driver License and/or California Identification Card.
- They do not have a Social Security Number.
- They have an Army Post Office or Fleet Post Office address.
- They have an address outside of the United States.
- They hold a California CDL and their residence is located out of state.

**By Phone**

You can also change your address easily by requesting a Change of Address form (DMV 14) via phone by calling any of the DMV offices at 1-800-777-0133. The form will take approximately five days to arrive at your new address, after which you’ll fill in the information and mail it back to the designated address on the form.

**By Mail**

Getting your address changed via the post is an additional channel through which you can complete the transaction. First, you must go online to download and print a Change of Address form (DMV 14) from the CA DMV website. After completing and signing the form, you can then mail it to the return address.

**In Person**

The most traditional method used to change the address associated with your driver’s license is by visiting a DMV branch in person. Although this method is available, the California DMV encourages residents simply updating the addresses on their credentials to do so via the web or by mail as those methods are more convenient and easier to access. Though if you must apply in person, then you will follow the steps below:

**Documents**

- Visit any local DMV office.
- Fill out a Change of Address form (DMV 14) and hand it in to a representative.
- The representative will give you a Change of Address Certificate card (DL 43) to complete.
- Carry that DL 43 card along with your license.
Changing Your Name on Your Driver License or Identification Card

Having your name changed is a big decision because it will affect all of your legal documents as the new name will give you a new identity. It is imperative that you update your name on your driver license and identification card as soon as possible, otherwise your license will no longer be valid. In order to do this, you need to involve the Social Security Administration office, as well as the DMV. However, not to worry, as we will help you through it step by step to ensure you are well prepared.

It is important before you go to the DMV that you directly contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) office at 1-800-772-1213 to have your name changed on all SSA records. This is important because the DMV verifies your name, birth date, and Social Security Number with the SSA. It is imperative that your name be officially changed with the SSA before attempting to update the information with the DMV. The California DMV will verify that your name has been legally changed before issuing you a new license.

Once you have contacted SSA to change your name on all records you can now follow through with these steps:

Documents

- Visit the DMV office.
- Fill out a Driver License or Identification Application form (DL 44).
- Provide proof of your new name through an original or certified copy of either:
  - U.S. Birth Certificate
  - U.S. Certified of Birth Abroad or Report of Birth Abroad
  - A true full name document

Note:

Other acceptable documents that can be used to prove your true full name to the California DMV include adoption documents, marriage certificates, domestic partnership declarations, disillusion of marriage documents and legal name change documentation. All documents must verify the legal name of the applicant.
Have you lost or had your driver’s license stolen recently? Well, no need to worry; through the California DMV, you can obtain a replacement card quickly and easily. The process of replacing that license in California is easy and simple, requiring only a few steps.

Before initiating the process to obtain a duplicate license, it is important to note that the DMV will only accept replacement license applications in person, so make sure to set up an appointment ahead of time to avoid long lines at branch locations.
Documents

1. Make an appointment to visit a local DMV office.
2. Fill out a Driver License or Identification Card Application form (DL 44).
3. If you are younger than 18 years of age, you will require your parent’s/guardian’s signature on the original DL 44 form.
4. Have your picture and thumbprint taken.
5. Pay the application fee of $27.

You don’t need to report your license missing, instead all the DMV requires is that you check off on the DL 44 form whether your license was lost or stolen. If your license expires after it’s stolen or lost, you can also choose to renew it.
Tip

Driver’s license replacement applicants will be given a temporary license by the DMV that will last 90 days. The department mails permanent licenses to the applicants’ addresses for identification verification purposes. If your permanent license copy does not arrive within 60 days, make sure to contact the DMV at (800) 777-0133 to check on its status.
Reinstating
Your Driver’s License

There are many reasons you might have your driver’s license suspended, which in turn means that there are multiple ways to reinstate your driver’s license in California. Typical suspensions of one’s driving privileges can last anywhere from 30 days for a reckless driving conviction to one year for a first chemical test refusal offense.

If you need any information or clarification regarding your suspended license or under what condition it falls under, contact the DMV at 1-800-777-0133 during its regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Mon., Tues., Thurs., and Fri. Between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wed. To submit compliance documents without payment by mail, send the necessary information to:

Fees
The standard reissue fee is normally $55, but in some cases you may be required to pay additional fees to the DMV depending on your suspension cause. The following is a schedule of fees and the corresponding offense:

- $55 reissue fee
- $20 to remove a driver license restriction
- $15 to add a court restriction
- $100 for Admin Per Se (APS) fee
- $100 Preliminary Alcohol Screening (PAS)
- $85 partial payment of the APS fee
- $45 partial payment of the APS fee
- $24 drug suspension

In order to better understand how to reinstate your license, go to the section that fits your situation and follow the steps given.
If your license has been suspended due to you being a negligent operator, this means you have either committed a driving violation such as speeding or a hit and run, or your vehicle has been deemed unsafe to drive due to conditions such as faulty brakes, not being properly loaded, etc.

In this case, in order for you to reinstate your license you will need to do the following:

- Pay a reissue fee of $55 to the DMV.
- Pay any fines due to the court.
- File proof of car insurance through the California Insurance Proof Certificate (SR 22).
- Complete negligent operator probation without acquiring a traffic violation or being involved in any avoidable accidents.

It is possible to have your restricted license issued before the completion date of the mandatory suspension period if some of the reinstatement requirements are met. This depends on the situation, however, so in order to confirm if this is possible for your situation, please contact the DMV office for more information at 1-800-777-0133.

If you have had your license suspended due to driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol and/or drugs, you will have to complete the following steps below in order to reinstate your license:

- Complete the mandatory suspension period.
- Pay a reissue fee of $55 to the DMV.
- File proof of car insurance through the California Insurance Proof Certificate (SR 22).
- Complete a driving under the influence (DUI) treatment program.
- File a Notice of Completion Certificate (DL 101).
- Pay any fines due to the court.
- Complete any required jail time.

Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and/or Drugs
In order to reinstate your license if it has been suspended due to you having a physical and/or mental condition or disorder, you will simply need to provide the DMV with a completed Driver Medical Evaluation (DS 326) form and any other medical information. These documents must indicate that your condition or disorder no longer affect your ability to safely operate a vehicle.

**Involved in a Car Accident and Did Not Have Proof of Car Insurance**

If you have had your license suspended due to your inability to provide proof of having car insurance after you were involved in a car accident, then you will have to take the following steps in order to reinstate your license:

- Complete a mandatory one-year suspension.
- Pay a reissue fee of $55 to the DMV.

**Tip**

Make sure you verify the information on your documents or temporary license/ID is correct before departing from the DMV. If you notice incorrect information, notify a representative immediately to have your credential rectified immediately.
Getting a Californian ID Card

An ID card is paramount to have at hand because it provides proof of your identification and will often be asked for in many different situations. The DMV provides two different types of ID cards, one for regular citizens that is valid up to six years and one for senior citizens 62 years or older that is valid for 10 years. Senior citizens are NOT required to pay any ID card fees.

In order to better understand how to obtain and maintain your ID card in different situations, choose the section that best describes your needs and follow the steps below it.

Reduced-Fee ID Card

The general fee for anything to do with getting, modifying, or renewing your ID card if you are not a senior citizen is $29. However, if you qualify for the income requirements from a public assistance program, you therefore qualify for the reduced application fee of $8.

Either a government or non-profit program will provide you with the Verification for Reduced Fee Identification Card form (DL 937) to fill in and give to the DMV in order to qualify for a reduced fee ID card.

To find out more information on this, please contact your local public assistance program agency regarding all eligibility requirements and information on obtaining a DL 937 form.

How to Apply for an ID Card

In order to reinstate your license if it has been suspended due to you having a physical and/or mental condition or disorder, you will simply need to provide the DMV with a completed Driver Medical Evaluation (DS 326) form and any other medical information. These documents must indicate that your condition or disorder no longer affect your ability to safely operate a vehicle.

Documents

Visit a DMV office.

Complete and submit a DL 44 application form.

Have your thumbprint taken.

Have your picture taken.

Provide your Social Security Number

Provide proof of your birth date and legal presence:

• Your California driver license
• U.S. Birth Certificate
• U.S. Certified of Birth Abroad or Report of Birth Abroad
• Other acceptable documents
Are you looking to get a new ID card due to its being lost or stolen? Well, there is no need to worry, the process to replacing your ID card can be taken care of quickly if you follow these steps:

The process of renewing your ID card takes little to no time, and you may even do it online if you are eligible. In order to qualify to renew your ID card online you must have not conducted your previous two ID card renewals by mail or via the web. All California ID card renewal applicants must also provide their Social Security Numbers on their application forms.

### Replacing A Lost or Stolen ID Card

Are you looking to get a new ID card due to its being lost or stolen? Well, there is no need to worry, the process to replacing your ID card can be taken care of quickly if you follow these steps:

**Documents**

- Make an appointment to visit the DMV office.
- Complete and submit application form DL 44.
- Pay the application fee of $29. Senior Citizens are not required to pay a fee.
- Have your a thumbprint taken.
- Have your picture taken.
- Pay the application fee of $29. Senior Citizens are not required to pay a fee.

### Renewing Your ID Card

The process of renewing your ID card takes little to no time, and you may even do it online if you are eligible. In order to qualify to renew your ID card online you must have not conducted your previous two ID card renewals by mail or via the web. All California ID card renewal applicants must also provide their Social Security Numbers on their application forms.

- Visit the DMV office.
- Complete and submit application form DL 44.
- Have your a thumbprint taken.
- Have your picture taken.
- Pay the application fee of $29. Senior Citizens are not required to pay a fee.

**Note:**

California residents who are no longer deemed safe to operate a motor vehicle due to a medical condition may be able to exchange their current driving license for an identification card at no extra charge. Contact a local DMV branch for more information on the no-fee ID exchange process.
Before getting behind the wheel, it is important that the vehicle is prepared for any trip. This means checking the safety features and making any needed changes to your vehicle to guarantee a safe drive.

**Emergency Kit**

One of the essentials to safe driving is having a basic emergency kit available in your vehicle at all times. This kit should include items such as water, extra batteries, rope, a first aid kit, matches and a whistle. During the winter months, it is also important to carry items such as blankets, non-perishable foods, extra gloves and socks and a shovel.

**Winter Driving**

One of the most dangerous times to drive is during the winter, especially if you live in an area that snows or is prone to ice. Consider these tips below to drive safely during the winter.

- **Don’t Rush!**
  Roads are often covered in snow and ice after it snows. Instead of driving fast and risking an accident as you hurry to get to your destination, try leaving a few minutes earlier than usual. This will allow you to drive slower and avoid other dangerous drivers without being late for your appointment.

- **Don’t Panic if You Skid or Slip**
  In the event that your vehicle does skid or slip while driving, make sure you do not panic and slam down on your brakes. Instead, apply slow and even pressure on your brakes until you stop. This will prevent you from spinning further out of control.

- **Check Your Vehicle**
  Before leaving your house, make sure your vehicle’s controls, brakes, tank, tires, antifreeze, and exhaust are all in working order. It is also important that you remove any ice and snow from your car before you begin driving; this prevents the snow from blocking your view while you drive, or worse, flying off and hitting someone while in motion!
Drinking and Driving

Every year thousands are killed as a result of drinking and driving. These events can be prevented; it only requires that you plan ahead of time by taking certain steps. Before you begin drinking, arrange for someone else to be the designated driver. If they also become intoxicated, take a taxi or order a ride from a ride sharing app. Never allow someone drunk to drive, instead take away their keys and call for alternative transportation. If you see someone who you suspect is drunk and showing signs of intoxication while driving – such as making wide turns, weaving, swerving, breaking erratically or turning abruptly – call 9-1-1 and contact authorities immediately. Also make sure to avoid them on the road to ensure your own safety. This could mean you pulling over until they are at a safe distance from your car.

Using Your Phone

Driving while using your cell phone is one of the most dangerous things you can do. During those few seconds that your attention is diverted to your phone, a major accident could occur. Avoid texting, browsing the internet, and receiving calls while you drive to prevent accidents.

Things to Avoid

Driving isn't always a relaxing experience. There are certain actions that can be both an annoyance and a danger to you while driving on the road. These things are often avoidable if you make sure to take preventative measures to stop accidents before they occur.

Car Accidents

One way to avoid car accidents is to ensure that your vehicle is safe to drive as to not cause any mechanical failures. To do this, regularly check that your brakes are functioning properly, your tires are inflated and not worn out, and that the steering and suspensions are checked by a mechanic.

Wasting Gas

If you drive often, start looking for ways to save on those expensive trips to the pump. Saving on gas is possible if you take the following tips into consideration when operating your vehicle. Some of the ways that you can start saving gas are turning off the air conditioning, not leaving your engine running and not speeding above 60 mph. These things are preventable and not necessary for you to drive, therefore you can quickly reduce the amount of gas you waste. Another way to save on gas is to make sure that your vehicle is functioning properly. You can do this by checking that your tires are properly inflated, your engine is well-tuned, and that the octane level is correct according to your vehicle's needs.

Aggressive Driving

Both aggressive driving and drivers should be avoided to prevent on-road aggression or accidents. Aggressive driving is categorized as exhibiting behaviors such as aggressive tailgating, verbal or physical harassment towards another driver, or preventing another driver from merging or passing. If you are an aggressive driver, you are putting others at risk every time you engage in any of the above behaviors. When you encounter a frustrating situation on the road, instead of becoming aggressive, take a moment, breathe and continue moving.
Official Forms

- Renew Driver's License [Click here]
- Driver License Renewal by Mail Eligibility Form (DL 410 form) [Click here]
- Identification Card Renewal by Mail Eligibility (DL 410 FO form) [Click here]
- Proof Requirements for Non-Residents (DL 300 form) [Click here]
- Change of Address (DMV 14 form) [Click here]
- Application for Junior Permit (DL 120 form) [Click here]
- Medical Certification and Authorization for Gender Change (DL 329 form) [Click here]
- Participant's Certification of DUI Program Enrollment or Completion (DL 804) [Click here]
- Physician's Health Report [Click here]
- Health Questionnaire [Click here]
- Report for Vision Examination [Click here]
- Request for Cancellation or Surrender of a Driver License or Identification Card [Click here]
- Parent –Teen Training Guide [Click here]
DMV

Hours and Locations

Driver Safety Offices
In California there are currently 16 DMV driver safety offices located throughout the state. These offices serve drivers requesting administrative hearings or those who are scheduled for departmental re-examinations. These offices do not offer basic driver licensing or vehicle registration services, as those types of services are only offered at DMV field offices.

Field Offices
California DMV field offices provide services for drivers who require driver licensing or vehicle registration. To find the DMV field office nearest to you, simply click around this map. Another way you can search for an office location is by clicking here to view an alphabetical list of DMV branches. The link will provide you with the contact information on the DMV office you select including its office hours, holiday schedule, address, and wait times, including those of nearby offices.

Dates
All DMV offices operate according to the following business hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
• 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Wednesday
• 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
All DMV offices in California are closed during the following holidays:

- New Year’s Day
- Martin Luther King Jr’s Birthday
- President’s Day
- Cesar Chavez Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Veteran’s Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Day after Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day