

MAINE DRIVER'S LICENSE GUIDE

A Step By Step Guide For
Earning, Renewing, and
Replacing Your Driver License



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Welcome to your one stop guide for all the basics you need to learn about, apply for, renew, replace, or make changes, to your Maine Driver's License. Navigating the Maine BMV website to find the information you are looking for can not only be frustrating, but near impossible. This guide compiles all the need to know information about your Maine Driver's License in a single guide that is easy to read and review whenever you need it.

Getting Your License:

To be eligible to obtain a Maine Driver's License you must be able to provide proof that you are a legal Maine Resident. This is always the first step to obtaining a license, whether it is your first License, a replacement License, or even a license earned through the renewal process. This step applies to all licenses you can apply for in the State of Maine.

Your second step is always to provide proof that you are in the country legally.

- You must provide proof of U.S. Citizenship (or)
- Provide Proof of Legal Presence

NOTE: You do not need to be a permanent resident of the U.S. to obtain a drivers license, you just need legal presence}

Finally you need to provide two different proofs of identity. One of the provided documents for proof of identity must have your correct date of birth, and the other is required to bear your signature. The following are all acceptable as proof of Identity in Maine:

- Baptismal Record
- Birth Certificate
- Marriage Certificate
- Citizenship Papers
- Concealed Weapons Permit
- Copy of Marriage Application
- Court Order
- Divorce Papers
- Draft Card
- Medical Record
- Military Dependant ID Card
- Military Discharge (DD214)
- Military ID Card
- Parent/Guardian*
- Passport
- School Records/Transcripts**
- Social Security Card
- Unemployment Card





Lastly, you may be required to complete a vision screening to ensure you are physically able to drive.

NOTE:

- It is important to note that one must have their Social Security Number on file with the secretary of State. If your Social Security Number is not on file, you are responsible for providing your Social Security Number. If you do not have access to your number, in the instance of having lost your social security card, or your card is damaged or destroyed. U.S. Citizens age 18 or older may use the online service to request a replacement Social Security Card.
- Any legal name change (Marriage, Divorce, or Court Order) requires you to show appropriate documentation indicating the name change.



Getting Your First License

Additional Restrictions and Requirements:

The Three Step System:

Maine has a 3-step drivers licensing system for all new drivers under the age of 18. There are additional restrictions for all drivers under the age of 21.

above), proof of residency, Driver education completion certificate, and a birth certificate.*

***Notarized copies are not accepted.**

Learner's Permit:

To obtain a Learner's Permit in the state of Maine, applicants must be at least 15 years old. In addition to the age requirements, the applicants must also receive a passing score on a written driving exam. To schedule an exam you must first apply, by submitting an application form, an associated fee, two forms of identification (As outlined

The application packet can be submitted to a local branch of the BMV. Alternatively you can mail your application packet.

**Bureau of Motor Vehicles
Driver License Services Division
Examination Section
29 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0029**

The BMV will then schedule the written test for the applicant. The BMV will schedule the test at the nearest physical BMV location to the applicant's home address. The test will be scheduled within three weeks (Although these times can vary).

If you have any scheduling restrictions, you should make note of them in your application. The Maine BMV will do its best to accommodate any scheduling restrictions.

You will also need to pass a vision test before you are issued a learner's permit. The Maine BMV charges no additional fee for a vision test administered when you have your scheduled written exam. You may, however, opt to have a doctor provide your vision exam, but you will need to cover any associated costs yourself. Your doctor will give you a form, referred to as the eye form, which you will need to give to the the examiner at the time of your drivers test.



Your permit will remain valid for two years after it has been issued. Unlike a driver license, permits are non-renewable. You will need to apply for a new permit at the end of two years if you have not yet earned a driver license. Driving hours logged on your original permit will carry over to any subsequent permits you apply for. A Driver Permit in Maine allows the named individual to drive a motor vehicle while they are accompanied by a licensed driver who is at least 20 years old, and has been licensed for at least 2 years.

Age Requirements:

15-17 Years Old:

Permits issued to those under the age of 21 must be held for at least 6 months before the permit holder becomes eligible to apply for a road test. Permit holders are prohibited from cell phone usage while operating with a permit. For permits issued to those under the age of 21, a total of 70 hours must be logged to become eligible for a road test. 10 of the 70 logged hours must be done after dark. If a permit expires a new permit must be applied for, but the 6 month wait does not apply to the new permit.

Applying for a driver license has additional requirements. You must be at least 16 years of age. In addition to meeting the age requirement, you must have successfully completed a driver education course*. As stated above, you must log at least 70 hours of driving practice. These hours must be logged after you have received your permit.

*The driver education course must be approved by the BMV.

Any license issued to a person under the age of 18 in Maine is an intermediate license.

An Intermediate License prohibits the license holder from all of the following:

- Carrying Passengers who are not immediate family members.
 - ◊ Immediate family members extend to the following when living with your family:
 - ◊ Foreign Exchange students
 - ◊ Person under court appointed guardianship
 - ◊ A Child whose parent is deployed for military service and is under guardianship.
- Operating any motor vehicle between the hours of 12 a.m. and 5 a.m.
- Using a Cell Phone while driving.

For your intermediate license to be upgraded to an unrestricted license, you must hold an intermediate license for 270 days from the date that the intermediate license was initially issued. Any violation of the license restrictions will result in an extension of the restrictions and a license suspension.



Applicants 18-20 Years Old:

If you are at least 18 years old you are not required to complete a driver education course. You do still need to complete a road test and log the 70 hours of driving before earning your license. All other restrictions of the 15-17 age group apply to applicants of 18-20 years of age.

Applicants 21 years old or older:

Applicants who are 21 years old or older do not need to complete a driver education course, nor are they required to log driving hours. Permits issued to those 21 or older do not need to wait 6 months before applying for a road test. However, they are still prohibited from using a cell phone or other handheld electronic device while operating a vehicle with a permit.

ID Card

To obtain an ID card in the state of Maine a person must be able to prove:

One: They are in the United States Legally

And Two: present proof of a physical address in the state of Maine.

ID cards are for identification purposes only and do not confer driving privileges.

As with applying for a driver license, if your social security number is not on file with the Secretary of State, you will need to provide your Social Security number to apply for an ID Card. If you are ineligible for a Social Security number, you must provide documentation proving you are in fact ineligible for a social security number. You need two forms of proof of identity. One must contain your birth date, and the other must include your written signature. There is also a fee associated with applying for an ID card.

ID Cards are usually mailed within 2-3 weeks after the date they were ordered.

Real ID

By September 2020, Maine Driver's licenses and ID cards will no longer be accepted as valid identification for federal purposes, such as gaining entry to federal facilities or boarding commercial aircraft. After September 2020 only IDs and licenses designated as REAL ID will be acceptable for these purposes. Maine law has mandated that the system that will allow for the issuance of REAL ID compliant ID cards and Driver Licenses be implemented no later than July 1, 2019. On July 1st, and any time thereafter, a person may apply for a REAL ID compliant ID card or Driver License.

REAL ID compliant licenses and ID cards have all the normal application requirements as standard Maine Driver Licenses and ID cards, but also require additional documents and steps for approval.

To obtain a REAL ID you must also:

- Have a new photograph taken
- Submit additional documents:
 - ◊ One Document that Establishes Identity, Date of Birth, and one of the following:
 - Proof of U.S. citizenship
 - Proof of Lawful Permanent Residence
 - Proof of Temporary Lawful Status
 - ◊ One Document that demonstrates proof of Social Security Number, or one document that demonstrates Social Security Number ineligibility.*
 - ◊ Two documents that establish proof of residence in the state of Maine.**



*Acceptable documents include: A W-2 Form with applicants name and full SSN, Form 1099 with applicants name and full SSN, Non-Social Security Form 1099 with applicant's name and full SSN.

**Acceptable Documents include: Utility Bill, Paycheck stub, mortgage statement, etc.

Driving Exams & License Classifications:

There are three tests or Exams that every applicant for a driver license in the State of Maine needs to pass, a written exam, a vision screening test, and the road test. These exams are required for any applicant applying for their first license, or if the applicant is applying to change the classification of their license. You will only have the written test and the road test waived if you currently hold a valid out of state license.



NOTE:

You must obtain a new Maine Driver License within 30 days of becoming a Maine Resident.

To start this process you must visit your local BMV office (Unless you are converting a Commercial Driver License, which must be done at the BMV main office in Augusta, on Hospital Street). You must provide both proof of legal presence and proof of legal residency. You will be required to take a Vision screening test. Upon applying for a Maine License you will be required to turn in the out of state license you currently hold. You will also need to pay any associated fees, and finally provide any required supporting documents that establish any name changes that may have occurred.)

Written Tests consist of 30 questions.

To pass the Maine Written Test you must answer, at minimum, 24 of the 30 questions correctly. The questions on the test will vary, and will cover Maine's Driving safety rules and laws.

Road Tests are proctored driving tests, where a licensed examiner will accompany you on a predetermined route. They will be assessing your driving ability, and ensuring that you have the knowledge and skill to handle your vehicle correctly, as well as determining your familiarity with the rules of the road, your reactions to pedestrians, other drivers, and additional hazards.

The road test will include a portion assessing your parallel parking and ability to perform straight-line backing up. You will not be administered a road test until all other tests and exams have been

taken and passed. To request a road test you must observe all time and driving restrictions (for applicants under the age of 21) and mail in a road test request card to the BMV main office:

**Bureau of Motor Vehicles
29 State House Station
Augusta, Maine, 04333-0029**



NOTE: You must have your learner's permit on your person on the day of the road test.

After completion of your Road test you will be issued a temporary license, and instructions on how to obtain your photo license. If your road test results in a failure, you will be informed why you failed and what areas of driving you need to practice to be successful in your next Road Test attempt.

Driver License Renewal:

If you are about to go through the Driver License renewal process you will need the following things:

- Documents(s) showing proof of your physical address in Maine.*
- Document(s) that prove you are a U.S. Citizen OR Document(s) that prove you are a legal resident or have legal presence in the United States.*
- Your Social Security Number on file with the Secretary of State.



*You may be required to have 2 or more documents supporting your Citizenship, and/or residence. It is always a good idea to have at least 2 such documents on hand when renewing your Maine Driver License or ID card.

When you renew your driver license you may be required to take a vision screening exam.

Vision Screenings:

In addition to those applying for an initial license or driver permit, Maine Requires those applicants who are attempting to apply with a Valid out of state license, applicants changing their license classification, and applicants over the age of 40 attempting to renew their license. Any applicant who is renewing their license for the first time after reaching the age of 40 must undergo a vision screening test, and must repeat the test every second renewal after. Every applicant of 62 years or older must take a vision test with every renewal.

As mentioned before, the Maine BMV provides vision screening exams at no cost when you appear for a driver examination. You can alternatively elect to have a vision screening done when visiting a doctor. Any vision screening done outside of the BMV will be done at your expense.

The BMV vision screening is a measure of how clearly you can see (A measure of visual acuity), and how sharp your peripheral vision is. Both direct and peripheral vision are of the utmost importance when driving a motor vehicle.

Online Renewal:

When renewing your driver license or ID card with the Maine BMV you may be eligible to complete the process online. The Maine Rapid REnewal Service allows you to renew your driver's License or Maine ID card. You may also purchase a replacement driver's license or Maine ID card. Other services provided through Maine Rapid Renewal:

- Change Mailing Address
- Change Biographic information on your License or ID Card:
 - ◊ Height
 - ◊ Weight
 - ◊ Hair Color

This service is not open to an applicant if any of the following are true:

- You have not provided proof of legal residence or legal presence.
- Your driving privilege is suspended or revoked.
- You hold an out of state Driver's License
- You have changed your name since your last renewal.
- You have developed a medical condition since your last renewal.*
- You are required to take an eye exam.

To complete the online renewal process you will need the following on hand:

- Your Social Security Number.
- A Valid Credit Card.
 - ◊ Visa.
 - ◊ Mastercard.
- A working printer.

The normal Driver License in person renewal can be completed at any BMV field office location. There is a renewal fee for Licenses and ID Card. Acceptable payment options are:

- Cash
- Check (Made out to the Secretary of State)
- Money Order
- Visa
- MasterCard
- Discover Card

If you have not already done so you may sign up for Organ and Tissue donation when you renew your License and ID Card. Your license will be marked with a red heart indicating that you wish to be an organ donor.

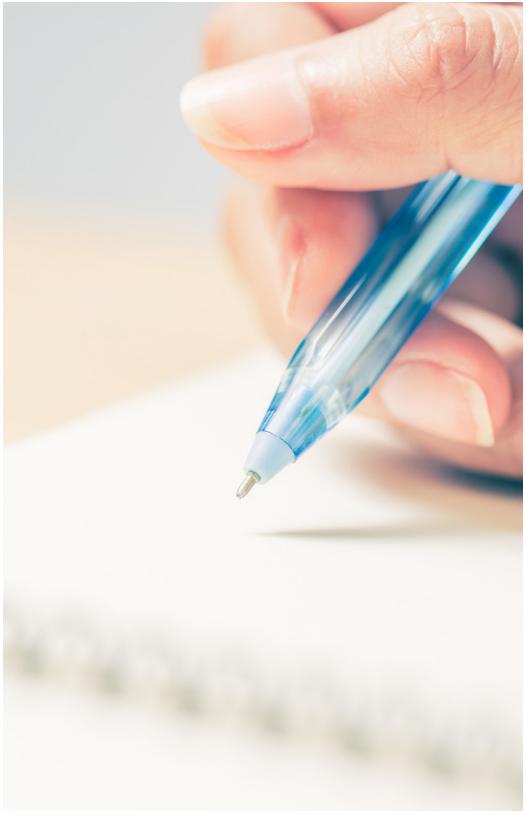
You may also register to vote at the time of your renewal.

Duplicate (Replacement) License or ID Card:

You are required to provide proof of legal presence and Maine Residency in order to obtain a duplicate license. There is a \$5.00 fee to obtain a duplicate driver's license or ID Card. Maine currently has three methods of replacing a driver license or ID Card.

1. Maine has an online renewal/replacement service. You may be eligible to use this service.*
2. The Duplicate License or ID Card process can be completed in person at any BMV branch office or Mobile location. You need proof of identification for this process. As with applying for a license or ID card, you need 2 documents, one with your date of birth, the other with your signature.
 - ◊ You will be given a form to sign that serves as your statement that the original license is not in your possession.
3. You can use the Mail process to obtain a duplicate card. You will need to submit a written request for a duplicate license or ID card. The request must include the following information:
 - ◊ Name
 - ◊ Date of Birth
 - ◊ Current Address





You must also include a brief statement in which you must certify that you no longer have possession of the original license or ID card. You must also include a brief description of what happened to the original card. After verifying your picture and signature and collecting your \$5.00 duplicate fee, your request will be processed and a new card mailed to you.

Any requests written should be mailed to the following address:

**Bureau of Motor Vehicles
License Information Unit
29 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0029**



Note: This service is detailed in the Renewal section of this guide. This online service is not available for holders of Commercial driver licenses

Fees

The following are the associated Fees for the various exams and renewal services:

Exam Fees:

- Class C Written Test: \$35.00
- Motorcycle Permit Exam: \$35.00
- Class A Commercial Driver License Exam: \$70.00
- Class B Commercial Driver License Exam: \$70.00
- Class C Commercial Driver License Exam: \$70.00

Initial License Fees/ Renewal Fees:

- Class C (Under 65 Age Group, 6 year license): \$30.00
- Class C (65 and Older Age Group, 4 year license): \$21.00
- Commercial License (Under 65 Age

Group, 5 year license): \$34.00

- Commercial License (65 and Older Age Group, 4 year license): \$28.00

Out of State Converting Fees:

- Class C License from out of State: \$35.00 Application fee + \$30.00 License Fee
- Motorcycle License: \$35.00 application fee
- Commercial Driver License: \$70.00 application fee + \$34.00 Licensing Fee + Applicable endorsement fees

ID Cards:

- ID Cards: \$5.00 Application/ Renewal/ Duplicate

Suspensions & Revocations:

Driving is a privilege not a right. If you are found in violation of Maine traffic safety laws you may have your driving privileges suspended or revoked. To get your license reinstated you will need to pay any and all fees, and fines, both those from the court and any applicable fines or fees levied by the Maine BMV. There are no reinstatement fees for suspensions resulting from medical conditions.

Reinstatement fees may be paid either in person, or over the phone. You cannot pay reinstatement fees at mobile locations.

If you wish to inquire over telephone you can use the following number: (207) 624-9000

You may inquire about information of your specific suspension or revocation case by mail or by phone. For mail requests please direct your inquiries to the following address:

**Bureau of Motor Vehicles
Driver License Services Division
29 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0029**

Any requests should specify your given name, date of birth, and current up to date address. If you are seeking a copy of your suspension or revocation letter, there are additional associated fees. The fee to receive a copy is \$10.00, with an additional \$2.00 fee if you wish for a faxed copy, and an additional \$1.00 if you wish for a certified copy to be faxed to you.



OUIs: Operating Under the Influence

OUI or Operating Under the Influence is a serious offence in the state of Maine. In addition to court action, which may result in the suspension or revocation of your license, you may receive an Administrative Suspension for Intoxicant levels. Administrative Suspensions are separate from any court action. An Administrative suspension is an action taken by the Secretary of State. Administrative suspensions may be imposed earlier than court suspensions, and they may appear on your record or be imposed in addition to criminal penalties.

You are entitled to request a hearing in regards to your Administrative suspension. You must make a request for such a hearing within 10 days of the effective date of the suspension. Otherwise you waive your right to a hearing.



OUI may result in your driving privilege being suspended or revoked. If you are stopped under suspicion of OUI and a subsequent chemical test shows that you are in fact under the influence of intoxicants (Including medication, alcohol, or controlled substances) you may be faced with a suspension of your driving privileges. You will have a suspension for a specified period of time, and for some administrative suspensions you may be required to complete a driver education course.

Administrative Suspensions:

Teens-

- 1st Provisional: 365 days (1 Year)
- 1st Provisional (refusal): 548 days (18 Months)
- 2nd & Subsequent Provisional: 730 days (2 Years)
- 2nd Provisional (refusal): 913 days (30 Months)

21+

- 1st Offense: 150 Days (Reduced to 30 days with ignition interlock device)
- 1st Offense (refusal): 275 Days

- 2nd Offense: 3 Years (Reduced to 9 months with ignition interlock device)
- 2nd Offense (refusal): 18 Months
- 3rd Offense: 6 years (reduced to 3 years with ignition interlock device)
- 4th & Subsequent Offense: 8 Years (reduced to 4 years with ignition interlock device)
- 4th & Subsequent Offense (refusal): 6 years

CDL Suspension for OUI:

Commercial Drivers are treated differently for OUI. In addition to normal penalties for OUI, commercial drivers will be disqualified from driving a commercial vehicle for a period of 1 year. If the cargo being transported was considered a hazardous material, the disqualification period will be raised to 3 years. For a second OUI offence, commercial drivers will be banned from commercial driving for life.*

*This ban may be reduced to 10 years in certain circumstances.

Refusal:

If you operate a motor vehicle in the state of Maine you are required to submit to and complete any chemical tests to determine your alcohol level and drug concentration. You may ask for your personal physician to complete these tests, assuming they are readily available immediately.

Failing to submit for such tests incurs heavy penalties, up to a suspension of 6 years or outright revocation of your license. Your refusal to submit to these tests is admissible evidence in any court case brought against you by the state of Maine. Your refusal may be considered an aggravating factor at sentencing and may subject you to a mandatory minimum prison term.