

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · ALPHARETTA

How to Get a Driver's License in Alpharetta: Maxwell Road, the Turkish-Language Exam, SSN and DDS-351, 2026 Guide

Four errands in one building, the documents, the exams, the fees, and the official disagreement over whether this center gives road tests.

SHORT ANSWER

Licenses come from the state Department of Driver Services (DDS), and the Alpharetta center is at 11575 Maxwell Road. That address is the most useful line on this page: the same county building also holds the tag office, the Board of Assessors and water and sewer billing. The knowledge exam is walk-in and offered in Turkish. An SSN, or form DDS-351 if you are not eligible for one, is required, and every document must be in English. An eight-year license costs \$32.

One building, four errands: 11575 Maxwell Road

The first thing to know about Alpharetta: the **Fulton County Customer Service Center at Maxwell Road**, 11575 Maxwell Road, houses the DDS license center, the county tag office, the Board of Assessors and water and sewer billing under one roof. License, tag, homestead application and water account can be done on a single trip. The numbers in that building: DDS (678) 413-8400, Tax Commissioner 404-613-6100, Board of Assessors 404-224-0102, water and sewer billing 404-612-6830. One oddity: the county prints the ZIP as 30022 and DDS prints 30009 for the same building, so navigate by the street address rather than the ZIP.

What to know before you go

- **The 30-day clock.** You count as a resident once you have been in the state 30 days or more, or you take a job and enroll your children in school within 10 days. From then you have 30 days to hold a Georgia license. Until then you may keep driving on your foreign license as a tourist or business visitor. Georgia law does not allow a license to be issued to someone without lawful status.
- **Every visit starts with the online form.** Whatever you are coming for, DDS asks every customer to submit the Online License/ID/Permit form before the visit. It is free, on DRIVES e-Services.
- **An SSN or form DDS-351.** You give either a Social Security number or the DDS-351 form showing that you are not eligible for one.
- **Documents must be in English, and translations are not accepted.** DDS wants to see the originals of your immigration documents at every visit.

- **Living without a car is hard.** MARTA rail does not reach Alpharetta and only two bus routes enter the city, one every 20 minutes and one every 40. Fitting the license into your first 30 days matters more here than in Atlanta.

Step by step

- 1 **File the online form.** dds.drives.ga.gov (DRIVES e-Services), free.
- 2 **Get your documents in English:** one identity document, an SSN (or DDS-351), proof of address from two separate sources, and an immigration document showing your lawful status.
- 3 **Take the knowledge exam as a walk-in.** No appointment is needed, but you have to start at least 30 minutes before the center closes. The exam has two parts, road rules and road signs, and you need 15 correct out of 20 in each.
- 4 **Call before you plan a road test.** Two official sources disagree about whether this center gives road tests (below). Either way the appointment is booked in DRIVES e-Services, and you bring a four-wheeled, tagged, registered and insured car. The passing score is 75 out of 100.
- 5 **Pay the fee and take the temporary document.** The permanent card arrives by mail within 30 days. TSA does not accept the paper, so carry your passport on domestic flights until the card comes.

Which documents are asked for?

ITEM	FOR SOMEONE ARRIVING FROM TÜRKIYE
Identity (1 document)	A valid foreign passport, a green card (I-551) or an employment authorization card (I-766)
Social Security	An SSN, or form DDS-351 for those not eligible for one
Address (2 documents, 2 separate sources)	A lease, an electric bill, a water bill or a bank statement
Lawful status (1 document)	Passport plus visa plus I-94; for F or J an I-20 or DS-2019 plus I-94; an EAD; a green card

DOES THIS CENTER GIVE ROAD TESTS? TWO OFFICIAL SOURCES DISAGREE

We are not going to pick a side. The text of the DDS Alpharetta page lists a non-commercial road test among the center's services and says appointments are required for road tests only. Our statewide research, on the other hand, came back with Alpharetta among the centers that give no road test. Both are official, they contradict each other, and we could not settle it this round. There is only one practical route: call **(678) 413-8400**, ask whether the Alpharetta center gives road tests, and book accordingly. If it does not, the nearest alternatives on the DDS road-test list are Marietta (1605 County Services Pkwy) and Decatur (2801 Candler Rd). Confirm before you take a day off work.

Is the written exam really offered in Turkish?

Yes. According to the DDS language list, both the road rules and the road signs parts of the non-commercial knowledge exam are available in **26 languages**, and **Turkish is one of them**. The road test is in English.

There is a second conflict worth knowing: the 2023-2024 driver manual text still published on the DDS site says the road signs section is in English only, while the newer language list says both sections are translated. Call **(678) 413-8400** and confirm you can take the signs section in Turkish before you go to Maxwell Road. One accompanying person, including an interpreter, is allowed.

Fees

TRANSACTION	FEE
License (Class C, eight years; printed LIMITED-TERM for non-citizens, five years at most)	\$32
Instructional permit	\$10
State ID card (eight years)	\$32
Lost card or renewal	\$10
Online transaction discount	\$5 less

The **LIMITED-TERM** card and your Turkish license

- A card issued to a non-citizen is printed **LIMITED-TERM** and expires with your approved period of stay, at five years at most. If your immigration document is in an extension process you can get a one-time 120-day extension.
- Every Georgia license and ID issued since 2012 is REAL ID compliant at no extra charge, with a star in the top right corner.
- **A Turkish license cannot be exchanged.** The only reciprocal jurisdictions on the DDS list are South Korea (with a consulate letter) and Taiwan. You take the vision test, the knowledge exam and the road test, and your Turkish license is shown during the transaction and handed back to you.
- **An international driving permit** is not a license on its own and cannot be used in a DDS transaction.
- For adults getting a first license, DDS can ask those who go straight to Class C for an affidavit of 40 hours of supervised driving, six of them at night. No DDS page we could read says whether a holder of a Turkish license is excused, so call (678) 413-8400 and ask.

Centers, hours and the renewal kiosk

CENTER	ADDRESS	ROAD TEST
Alpharetta (Fulton)	11575 Maxwell Road, Alpharetta GA	Sources conflict, call
Marietta (Cobb)	1605 County Services Pkwy, Marietta GA 30008	Yes

CENTER	ADDRESS	ROAD TEST
Decatur (DeKalb)	2801 Candler Rd, Ste 82, Decatur GA 30034	Yes
Atlanta (downtown)	400 Whitehall Street SW, Atlanta GA 30303	No

Centers are open **Tuesday to Friday 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday 7:30 a.m. to noon**, closed Sunday and Monday. The hours and the Alpharetta service list come from the text of the DDS page itself, which we could not read directly because the site blocks automated access, so call (678) 413-8400 and confirm before you drive over. Holiday closures are announced on the DDS home page and the center can be closed on a given Saturday. **Renewal kiosk:** there is a 24/7 kiosk inside the Kroger at 10945 State Bridge Road. A 3.95 percent credit-card or 2.95 percent debit-card surcharge applies, and the kiosk handles renewals only, not a first license.

NOTE FOR IMMIGRANTS

- Keep your passport, visa, I-94 and any I-797C or EAD in one folder and take it to **every visit**, because DDS wants to see the originals again each time.
- The LIMITED-TERM date on your card tracks your immigration document, so the day you extend your status is also a day for a DDS visit.
- If you are offered voter registration at the counter and you are not a U.S. citizen, decline and tick the Opt-Out box. As the form words it, signing that section is a sworn statement that you are a U.S. citizen.
- If you are already at the Maxwell Road building, finish the tag office errand the same day, and the homestead application too if you own the home. All four counters are there.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN ALPHARETTA

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Alpharetta and the surrounding area, in Turkish and English.

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