

CHECKLIST · ALPHARETTA

Moving to Alpharetta Checklist: The First 90 Days

What to do in order, with the deadlines and where each errand happens. Print it and tick the boxes.

SHORT ANSWER

If you are subject to the address-reporting requirement, report your new address to USCIS within 10 days. In the first week put the electricity (Georgia Power or Sawnee EMC, depending on the address) and the **county** water account in your own name, start the **city's** mandatory trash service, enroll the children with Fulton County Schools and take the knowledge exam at Maxwell Road. Within 30 days finish the license and the car registration; new residents pay 3 percent title tax instead of 7. The city property tax bill is due December 1 and the homestead deadline is April 1.

The first 10 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Report your address to USCIS (AR-11)	As a general rule required for most noncitizens including green card holders; holders of A and G visas and Visa Waiver visitors are outside it. Moving within the city, or over to Roswell, counts. uscis.gov/addresschange
☐ Form EOIR-33 if you have an immigration court case	Within 5 days, to the court that holds your case (Atlanta has two separate courts): respondentaccess.eoir.justice.gov
☐ If you have an ICE reporting obligation	Update the address with ICE too: portal.ice.gov
☐ Change of address with the post office	A USPS change does not update USCIS records; they are two separate steps. In north Fulton one ZIP code reaches across several city limits, so report the address as it appears on your mail rather than the name of the neighborhood.

The first week

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Electricity: first find out which utility you have	Part of Alpharetta is Georgia Power and the northern edge is Sawnee EMC , a member cooperative. No street-level map is published, so ask the landlord when you sign, or ask for a previous bill. Georgia Power customer line 1-888-660-5890; without an SSN the route with written rules is the PrePay plan (photo ID plus proof of address, \$40 of funding plus a \$30 fee, enrollment 1-877-506-3905). Sawnee EMC normally asks for the full SSN; if you choose not to give it you must come to the office in person and have a deposit placed on the account, new service 770-887-2363 with at least 24 hours of notice.
☐ Natural gas	In Atlanta Gas Light (AGL) territory gas is deregulated: AGL owns the pipes, you pick the marketer. A residential marketer deposit cannot exceed \$150 . If there is no meter, use AGL's online form and it responds within two business days. A few from the PSC's September 2026 list: Gas South 877-472-4932, Georgia Natural Gas 877-850-6200, SCANA Energy 877-467-2262, True Natural Gas 770-502-0226.
☐ Water and sewer: the county, not the city	The Water and Sewer Billing and Collections Division of Fulton County Finance. Complete the form and email it to New.Service@fultoncountyga.gov or drop it at 11575 Maxwell Road; phone (404) 612-6830. If you rent, the owner must already hold an account. Residential accounts are billed every two months. We could not confirm whether the SSN field on the form is mandatory, so call before you fill it in.
☐ Trash: the city, mandatory, billed quarterly in advance	In Atlanta the trash fee sits on the property tax bill. Not in Alpharetta: the city provides the service through a contract with a private hauler and the City Finance Department bills it quarterly in advance , and it is mandatory for every residential property inside the city limits. Use the city's "Establish / Terminate Trash Service" form; 678-297-6060, utilities@alpharetta.ga.us. We could not read the current quarterly rate as published, so call and put it in the budget.
☐ Reaching the city: there is no 311	Alpharetta has no 311 line. The general number is 678-297-6000 and billing, tax, water and trash questions go to 678-297-6060, option 0. Non-urgent reports go through the city's "Report An Issue" (SeeClickFix) form. Keep your own record of the reference number and the date.
☐ Library card	The library is the county's, not the city's: Fulton County Library System, Alpharetta Branch, 10 Park Plaza, (404) 613-6735. Free for Fulton residents, no SSN asked and no photo-ID requirement; a lease or a bill showing your name and address is on the list. The branch offers intermediate and advanced English (ESL) classes.
☐ Enroll the children in school	Fulton County Schools, not Atlanta Public Schools. The SSN is voluntary. Proof of address means two documents in the parent's name, one of them a monthly electric or water statement; a gas bill is not accepted. Form 3231 and Form 3300.
☐ License: the knowledge exam	11575 Maxwell Road, walk-in and available in Turkish . Two official sources disagree about whether road tests are given at this center, so call (678) 413-8400. An SSN or DDS-351, documents in English, no translations.
☐ Transit: two bus routes	MARTA rail does not reach the city; the Red Line ends at North Springs in Sandy Springs. Two routes enter Alpharetta: 140 North Point Parkway every 20 minutes and 185 Alpharetta every 40, both running between North Springs and the Windward Park and Ride. A single ride is \$2.50 with four free transfers inside three hours, and you can tap a contactless bank card or a phone. The last day to transfer a balance from an old silver Breeze card is October 30, 2026.

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Apply for an SSN (if you are eligible)	We could not confirm an SSA field office inside Alpharetta. Put your ZIP code (30004, 30005, 30009 or 30022) into ssa.gov/locator , read your assigned office and book on 1-800-772-1213. It is free. The office on Old Milton Parkway is a disability appeals hearing office and does not issue cards.

Within 30 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Georgia license	30 days after you count as a resident. The card is printed LIMITED-TERM and expires with your approved stay.
☐ Car registration (county tag office)	License first, then registration. The nearest counter is in the same building as the license center: 11575 Maxwell Road (404-613-6100), weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Title \$18, plate \$20 a year.
☐ The 3 percent title tax	TAVT is 7 percent of fair market value, 3 percent for new residents . On a \$25,000 car that is \$750 instead of \$1,750. Say at the counter that you are a new resident and show a lease or a job letter.
☐ Liability insurance and the emissions test	\$25,000 / \$50,000 / \$25,000. Fulton is an emissions county, so test before you register (up to \$25).
☐ Peach Pass (if you need one)	GA 400 carries no toll today. If you will regularly use the I-85 or I-75 express lanes, the transponder is free and a personal account needs \$20 prepaid. Passing without a tag adds \$25 per toll.

Within 90 days and after

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ If you have no insurance: the ER is outside the city	On the sources we could read there is no 24-hour emergency department inside Alpharetta; the nearest ones are in Roswell, Johns Creek and Cumming. Do this today: pick the ER nearest your home and write down the address and phone. Wellstar North Fulton Medical Center, 3000 Hospital Boulevard, Roswell, (770) 751-2505. The Northside / Alpharetta Medical Campus at 3400 Old Milton Parkway is an outpatient campus with no emergency department.
☐ Financial assistance applications	The Grady Health System program is open to Fulton and DeKalb residents with household income up to 400 percent of the poverty level. A consular ID is accepted as photo identification, proof of 30 days of residence is required and a PO Box is not accepted; B-1 and B-2 visitor visa holders are excluded. Financial counselor appointment (404) 616-6920. On the hospital side, Northside's charity care policy gives a full discount after an application at or below 300 percent of the poverty level.
☐ Georgia Access	Georgia did not adopt the adult Medicaid expansion. Enrollment for 2027 opens November 1, 2026, December 15, 2026 is the last day for coverage starting January 1, and the period closes January 15, 2027. Consumer line 888-687-1503. Moving to the United States from abroad opens a special enrollment period.

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Income tax	Alpharetta has no city income tax. Georgia's flat state rate is 4.99 percent for tax year 2026; the state return is Form 500, due with the federal return on April 15.
☐ Property tax: two separate bills	If you own, two bills arrive. The city bill is due December 1 at a 2026 rate of 5.750 mills, unchanged since 2009. The county and school shares are billed separately by the Fulton County Tax Commissioner; the 2026 bills were temporary bills due October 15, 2026. You have 45 days from the Notice of Assessment to appeal a value.
☐ Homestead exemption: April 1	The city's basic homestead exemption takes \$45,000 off assessed value, with another \$25,000 at 65. Apply to the Fulton County Board of Assessors at 11575 Maxwell Road or at fultonassessor.org , 404-612-6440. Fulton asks for a valid Georgia license or state ID, so finish the DDS errand before April 1.
☐ Türkiye matters	Georgia is served by the Turkish Consulate General in Miami; there is no consulate in the state. Group everything that needs you in person into one appointment. The apostille comes not from the Secretary of State but from the GSCCCA in Atlanta, \$3 per document.

Sales tax (October 1, 2026)

WHERE	RATE
Alpharetta (Fulton County outside Atlanta)	7.75 percent
Atlanta city limits	8.9 percent
DeKalb County outside Atlanta	8 percent
Cobb and Gwinnett	6 percent
Cherokee and Forsyth	7 percent

RENTING: WHAT GEORGIA LAW DOES AND DOES NOT DO

- **A deposit is capped at two months' rent** under the Safe at Home Act, for leases entered into or renewed on or after July 1, 2024, and it must come back within **30 days** with a written itemization.
- The move-in damage list, the move-out inspection and the separate escrow account are required only of landlords with **more than ten rental units or a management agent**. Part of the rental stock here is single owners renting out one house, so do the job yourself: photograph every room on move-in day and email the photos with the date.
- **Rent control is banned** (O.C.G.A. 44-7-19) and there is no limit on increases. In a month-to-month tenancy the landlord gives 60 days notice and the tenant 30. For unpaid rent the landlord must give at least three business days written notice before filing, and after service you have seven days to answer.
- The state's own handbook says no government agency in Georgia can intervene in a dispute between a tenant and a landlord, and there is no municipal office to call in Alpharetta either. A case goes to the Fulton County magistrate court, so the party with written evidence wins.
- The only local housing rule we found is a short-term rental licensing ordinance, and it binds owners rather than tenants. Sources conflict on the adoption date, so we do not print one.

AN ALPHARETTA BUSINESS LICENSE: TWO SEPARATE QUESTIONS

Every business operating within the city must hold a current **Occupational Tax Certificate** from the first day of business. Alpharetta charges by **full-time-equivalent employees**: \$125 plus \$10 per employee for 1 to 4 FTE, more in the higher bands, plus a **\$75 administrative fee that is never prorated**. The tax itself is discounted later in the year: 50 percent from July 1 to September 30 and 25 percent from October 1 to December 31. The application package carries two notarized affidavits: a private employer affidavit (O.C.G.A. 36-60-6(d)) and an affidavit verifying lawful immigration status (O.C.G.A. 50-36-1). Only citizens, green card holders, qualified aliens and lawfully present nonimmigrants such as E-2 or H-1B holders can sign the second one. That affidavit proves you are lawfully present in the country; it is not permission to own or run a business. Office: 2 Park Plaza, 678-297-6086.

IF YOU ARE NOT A U.S. CITIZEN

- Never tick a box saying you are a U.S. citizen and do not register to vote. If voter registration is offered at DDS, tick the Opt-Out box. If a jury summons arrives, do not ignore it: complete the Fulton County Superior Court Jury Services online questionnaire and send documentation of your non-citizenship to info.juryservices@fultoncountygga.gov.
- Talk to an immigration attorney before you or a family member applies for SNAP, Medicaid, PeachCare, Pathways, LIHEAP or any other public benefit; the new public charge rule has been in force since September 18, 2026. LIHEAP also requires lawful status and a Social Security number for every member of the household, with no ITIN alternative.
- In Georgia, when a person is confined in a county or municipal jail for any period however short, a reasonable effort must be made **within 48 hours** to determine their nationality and whether they are lawfully present (O.C.G.A. 42-4-14). The documents the statute lists are a state driver's license or ID from the approved list, a Form I-94, a permanent resident card (I-551), a valid Nexus card, a valid Global Entry card, or a valid passport showing the person is a US citizen, has been issued a visa, or is a citizen of a visa waiver country. **Turkey is not in the Visa Waiver Program**, so a Turkish passport meets that list only together with a visa record. Keeping the document that shows your status reachable makes a difference. If you are taken into custody, ask to speak with an immigration attorney before you discuss your status, and ask that the consulate be notified.
- With a green card application pending, do not leave the country without advance parole. Check your I-94 record at i94.cbp.dhs.gov.

TRKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN ALPHARETTA

Have a question about your immigration status?



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