

CHECKLIST · ARIZONA

Moving to Arizona: A First Days Checklist

What newcomers need to do in order, the deadlines, and which office handles it. Print it and tick the boxes.

SHORT ANSWER

Three clocks run at once when you move to Arizona. **If you are subject to address reporting, USCIS gets 10 days**, and an immigration court with a pending case gets **5 days**. If you have started a job, the **state withholding form has a 5-day deadline**, and this one costs money: without the form your employer withholds below the actual rate. For the driver license and vehicle registration there is **no published day count**, the trigger is the definition of a resident. Add two Arizona-specific items to the list: **the ZIP code of your new address** determines whether emissions testing applies to you, and **whichever company sells you electricity** determines which account rules you live under.

THE FIRST TEN DAYS	HOW, WHERE, AND HOW LONG YOU HAVE
☐ Report your address to USCIS	If you are subject to address reporting, 10 days after you move, online through a USCIS account or by mail on Form AR-11. Green card holders are covered too; A and G visa holders and visitors who entered under the visa waiver are exempt. Mail forwarding is not a substitute
☐ The address on a pending case	The AR-11 obligation and updating the address on a pending application are not the same thing , so do both and keep the confirmation for each. If a biometrics notice goes to your old address you miss the appointment
☐ Immigration court	If you have a pending case, within 5 days , on the court's own form (EOIR-33)
☐ Write down the county and the ZIP code of your new address	An Arizona-specific item. The county affects which USCIS field office handles your file, and the ZIP code affects whether emissions testing applies . Even a move inside the state can shift your file to the other office
☐ The state withholding form	If you have started a job, 5 days . Form A-4 asks not how many dependents you have but what percentage you want withheld ; without it your employer withholds 2.0 percent , which is below the flat rate in effect for 2026
☐ Social Security number	The license application asks for it, so start the sequence here. If you checked the box on the DS-260 with an immigrant visa the card comes by mail; otherwise you go in person with Form SS-5 and the process is free . Arizona office addresses could not be verified in this research , so use the national line 1-800-772-1213 and ask for a Turkish interpreter. Keep your application receipt , the state health program accepts having applied for a number

Electricity: two separate account regimes in the same city

- The first thing to learn before you move is **which company sells electricity at your address**, because one of the large providers is outside the regulator's jurisdiction and applies its own rules.
- **On the regulated side:** the rule lists the minimum information a company may collect from an applicant and **a Social Security number is not on that list**. A deposit may not exceed two months of estimated billing, the company **must pay interest** on it, and it must be refunded after 12 months of service if the customer has not been late more than twice. On top of that, **a surety bond takes the place of the deposit entirely**, and that is a written right in the rule, not a courtesy. The grounds for refusing service are a closed list and **not having a number is not on it**, while misrepresenting your identity is. Connection must be scheduled within **five working days**.
- **On the unregulated side:** the provider is a political subdivision of the state with its own elected board, and its published credit policy answers the question directly: without a number you provide your driver license or another accepted government identification and pay a **security deposit**. The standard residential deposit is **\$290**, and the deposit waiver runs through a credit check **on a verified number**. **If no number is on file the deposit is held until your account closes**, so that money sits there until you move. On the prepay plan the deposit is **\$100**. The late mechanics are harder too: a bill is past due **21 days** after billing and service **may be disconnected from day 28 without further notice**. The appeal route is the company's own ombudsman and **the company's decision is final**, because there is no appeal to the commission.
- **Water, sewer and trash** come not from a private company but from the city's own department, combined on a single bill. Budget from the **summer** rate: the volume built into the monthly service charge is 5 units from October through May but **8 units from June through September**, so anyone budgeting off a February bill will be badly wrong in July. **No official page was found saying whether the city requires a Social Security number to open a water account**, and we print no deposit figure, so call the city and ask. Do not reason from the electricity rules either.

The shutoff moratorium protects the Arizona summer, not the winter

We have not seen a rule this different anywhere in the series. The rule requires every regulated company to choose **one of two commitments** and write it into its tariff: either a weather-forecast threshold (**temperatures not exceeding 32 F or temperatures exceeding 95 F**), or **the calendar days June 1 through October 15 of each year**. A company choosing the calendar option may not apply **late fees or interest** to amounts accruing in that period and must spread the arrears over months agreed with the customer. **That the large regulated companies chose the calendar option, and that the 2026 window is June 1 to October 15, 2026, was read from the commission's own news page through an official-domain summary**; the rule itself comes from the regulation, the companies' choice comes by that indirect route. **Note the date: the 2026 window closes on October 15, 2026**. And **the unregulated provider's window is narrower**: July and August only, plus periods under an excessive heat warning, and that company writes that it **continues to charge late fees** during its own moratorium. The result: a family falling behind in June is protected until October 15 with one provider and only until August 31 with the other.

- **No disconnection at all if the balance is \$300 or less**, or if the customer has paid at least half the balance within the last **25 days**.

- **If you have a deposit on file the company cannot disconnect without applying it to the debt**, and must then let you rebuild the deposit in installments over at least six months.
- **On the day of a disconnection and the day after**, the company's call center and offices must be open to the public, or it may not disconnect.
- **A medical ground:** no disconnection if, each year, a licensed health professional certifies that it would be especially dangerous to the health of the customer or a permanent resident of the household.
- Before disconnecting a customer in payment difficulty the company must have explained public and social assistance funds, given a designated third party five working days to respond, and given **two written notices 48 hours ahead and telephoned**.

Renting: a five-day notice and a landlord registration look-up

- **A broken air conditioner in July is not a complaint, it is a five-day notice.** The statute defines a condition materially affecting the health and safety of the occupants, and that definition expressly includes **the absence of adequate heating and cooling**, alongside infestation by insects, rodents and vermin, **the absence of hot and cold running water**, and hazardous electrical and plumbing conditions. So a broken air conditioner sits in the same statutory category as no running water and follows the same **five-day** cure route. The landlord must also keep heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems in good and safe working order.
- **Look the address up in the county assessor's rental registry before you sign.** Arizona prohibits cities from licensing landlords or imposing a rental registration requirement; instead the owner must report to the **county assessor** their name, address and telephone number, the street address and parcel number, and the year the building was built. In the statute's words, **a residential rental property may not be occupied if the information required is not on file with the county assessor**; if it is not on file the tenant may give a **ten-day written notice to comply**, and if the owner still has not complied after ten days the tenant may **terminate the agreement and recover all prepaid rent**. The registry is a public record, so you can look it up.
- **Do not forget to demand your deposit back.** The cap is one and a half months' rent, prepaid rent included. The refund period is **14 days** excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, but the clock starts only once three things have happened: termination of the tenancy, delivery of possession, **and the tenant's demand**. If you do not demand, the clock never starts. After the itemized list is mailed you have **60 days** to dispute the deductions, and after that the landlord's figures become final.
- **Fill in the move-in form on the day you move in.** At move-in the landlord must give you a signed copy of the agreement, **a move-in form for recording existing damage**, and written notice that you may be present at the move-out inspection. Entry requires **at least two days' notice** except in an emergency.
- **No notice period for a rent increase was found in the statute**, and rent control is preempted from cities by the state. In practice an increase arrives through the mechanism for terminating a month-to-month tenancy, so **that 30 days is not notice of a rent increase, it is the period for ending the tenancy**. Separately, **since January 1, 2025 cities may not impose any tax on the business of residential rental**: if your lease still carries a city rental tax line, that line is out of date.

If you are buying: the homeowner rebate, the tax district and the payment calendar

The question to ask when house-hunting is not "which city" but "**which tax district**". There is no single city rate in Arizona: in Phoenix, because the city limits cut across more than twenty independent school districts, the county's 2026 rate table carries **28 separate tax district codes whose city is Phoenix**, and the school district you land in moves the bill by **more than 40 percent**. Primary rates run from **5.0019 to 7.0414** and secondary rates from **1.3963 to 10.6254**, so two houses of the same value, both inside the city limits, can pay thousands of dollars apart a year on the school district alone. The city's own share is small: **1.2652 primary plus 0.7745 secondary** in 2026. The county assessor has the answer.

ITEM	WHAT IT DOES
Homeowner Rebate	Appears automatically as a line on the bill, with the state paying part of the primary school district tax. The rate is 50 percent , capped at \$600 per parcel . No application , it follows the classification, and rent the house out and it goes
The naming trap	In Arizona the thing called a homestead exemption is not a property tax break : it is a protection of the home against creditors and in bankruptcy. The item that works on property tax is the one above
The value cap	The taxable value (the Limited Property Value) may rise at most 5 percent a year and may never exceed the full cash value . For a new buyer that is a real protection, and it requires no application
The owner-occupied rate	The assessment ratio is 10 percent ; you then divide the net assessed value by 100 and multiply by the rate per \$100
Payment calendar	Half on October 1 , the other half the following March 1 . The first installment becomes delinquent after 5 p.m. on November 1, the second after 5 p.m. the following May 1. Delinquent interest is 16 percent a year and part of a month counts as a whole month
The December 31 escape hatch	In the statute's words, interest may not be collected if the full year of tax is paid on or before December 31 . If you missed the November 1 installment, pay the whole year by year end
If you move	An exemption does not follow you automatically: you must file a transfer form with the new county's assessor within 60 days of the new home becoming your primary residence

The vehicle and license sequence

TASK	HOW, AND WHY IN THIS ORDER
☐ Arizona insurance	Open it before moving day. Your old state's policy is not accepted : every vehicle registered in Arizona must be insured by a company licensed to do business in this state, and police may take your plate if you cannot produce proof. Minimum limits are 25/50/15
☐ Emissions test, if you are in an area	The line is a ZIP code , not a county, and it covers two metropolitan areas. Those who regularly commute into the areas for work or school are covered too . Hybrids are not exempt, only fully electric vehicles. No appointments, first come first served

TASK	HOW, AND WHY IN THIS ORDER
☐ Vehicle registration	15 days if you bought the vehicle; no day count is published if you drove in from another state, the wording is "as soon as you become a resident". Inside what looks like a registration fee is a tax, the VLT , tied to the vehicle's original list price. Use the calculator before you buy
☐ Driver license	No day count is published, the trigger is the definition of a resident. Your Turkish license waives no test and there is no Turkish written test; the verbal test is in the rule but is booked by appointment, in person. A Social Security number is mandatory
☐ There is no toll line in your budget	Arizona has no toll roads at all, so there is no transponder to buy. Any message claiming an unpaid Arizona toll is a scam : delete it, click no link, and enter no credentials

School, health and the rest of the first week

- **Find out which school district your address falls into.** There is no such thing as the city's school district in Arizona; schools are independent districts and one city holds dozens of combinations. That same district also sets most of your property tax bill.
- **Read both halves of the school rules:** the state education agency's guidance treats immigration status as **irrelevant** and says a school may not refuse enrollment over a foreign birth certificate, **but** the statute gives **30 days** for the identity document, ten more days after that, and then provides for the school to **refer the case to local law enforcement**. Hand the document in on time and ask for written confirmation.
- **A single document** is enough as proof of residency, but **a post office box is not accepted**. If you live in someone else's home, have the notarized shared residency affidavit prepared in advance; it is the document people most often get stuck on.
- **A personal belief exemption exists for immunizations**, but an exempt or unimmunized child is excluded from school during an outbreak. And **no Turkish language support was found**: expect English support inside English, not bilingual instruction.
- **If you do not want to put your passport in the mail** for a taxpayer identification number application, five Arizona cities offer in-person document verification: **Glendale, Mesa, Phoenix-Central, Tucson and Yuma**. We print no street addresses or hours, because the agency publishes those only through its own [office locator](#) and an appointment is the normal route.

DATES FOR THE CALENDAR

- **Moving day plus 10:** the address report. **Plus 5** if you have a pending court case.
- **First day of work plus 5:** the state withholding form. File it late and you underwithhold all year and pay the difference in one go in April.
- **First enrollment day plus 30:** the school's identity document deadline, with ten more days after it.
- **October 15, 2026:** the close of the summer shutoff window at regulated companies. At the unregulated provider the window closes on **August 31**.
- **November 1 and the following May 1, 5 p.m.:** the property tax delinquency hours. Miss one and pay the full year by **December 31** to escape the interest.
- **The second Wednesday of every month:** license testing is closed. Also closed on state holidays.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN ARIZONA

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