

CHECKLIST · BROOKLINE

Moving to Brookline Checklist: The First 90 Days

What a newcomer has to do, in order, with the deadlines and where to do it. Print it and tick it off.

SHORT ANSWER

Know one thing on the first night: in Brookline **no car may park on any street or in any Town lot between 2 and 6 a.m.**, every night of the year. If you have a car, that is the first thing to solve. If you are subject to the address-reporting requirement, report to USCIS within the first 10 days. In the first week open the electricity with Eversource and the gas with National Grid (no deposit may be required) and **ask who holds the trash account**, because here trash collection is not a free town service but a subscription of roughly \$275 to \$476 a year. Book the learner's permit appointment right away: the exam is offered in Turkish.

The first night: parking

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Do not leave the car on the street overnight	Every night of the year, no car may stay more than one hour between 2 and 6 a.m. on any street or in any Town lot. The old schedule set the fine at \$30; the police announced a new schedule effective July 19, 2026 and the new amount was reported at about \$45. Neighbors can report a violation: 617-730-2222.
☐ A one-off fix for tonight	The guest overnight pass: \$10 a night, valid 8 p.m. to 8 a.m., bought from the multi-space meters in the seven guest lots (Babcock St., Kent St./Webster Pl., Kent St./Station St., Fuller St., Beacon Median, Centre St. East, Webster St.). Or call 617-730-2230 after 3:30 p.m. and ask the police for a courtesy permit, up to two days.
☐ Join the queue for the permanent fix	The resident overnight permit: a space in a Town lot, about \$100 a month, with a waiting list. The car has to be registered in Massachusetts at a Brookline address. Transportation Division, Town Hall, 333 Washington St., 4th Floor, 617-730-2177, Transportation@brooklinema.gov .
☐ The daytime permit does not solve the night	The resident daytime permit, about \$30 a year, only lets you exceed the two-hour daytime limit; it does not lift the overnight ban.

First 10 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Report your address to USCIS (AR-11)	Generally, most noncitizens, including Green Card holders, must report within 10 days of moving; A and G visa holders and Visa Waiver visitors are exempt. A move from Coolidge Corner to Brookline Village counts. uscis.gov/addresschange
☐ If you have an immigration court case, Form EOIR-33	Within 5 days: respondentaccess.eoir.justice.gov
☐ If you have an ICE check-in obligation	Report the address to ICE too, within 5 business days: portal.ice.gov
☐ Update your RMV address	Have your Brookline street address entered as the garaging address, never Chestnut Hill; if the excise and toll invoices go to the wrong place, late interest and an RMV block follow.
☐ The post office	A USPS change of address does not update your USCIS record. Also, the Brookline Village post office has been closed since May 22, 2026 , so handle post office business at the branch at 1295 Beacon Street.

First week

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Electricity (Eversource)	eversource.com or 1-800-592-2000. No deposit may be required from a residential customer (220 CMR 27.00). At sign-up the company accepts an SSN, a driver's license, a passport number , a military ID or another government ID.
☐ Gas (National Grid)	1-800-233-5325. This is where you leave Cambridge behind: there both gas and electricity come from Eversource, in Brookline you open two accounts with two companies. If heat and hot water are included in the rent you may not need a gas account.
☐ The electricity supplier	The town's own program, Brookline Green Electricity , is the default: a new Eversource customer gets a 30-day notice and is enrolled automatically. Brookline Green is 14.681 cents per kWh, Brookline Basic 13.400 and Brookline All Green 17.525; the prices are fixed to December 2027 while Eversource basic service is 17.323 cents over the same period. Basic is the cheapest. Leaving is always free of penalty. The program "never knocks on your door and never calls unannounced", so give no one at the door permission to switch suppliers. Direct Energy (866) 968-8065, program advisors (800) 931-6221.
☐ Water and sewer	The town's Water and Sewer Division bills it, but the water comes from the MWRA . The bill is quarterly: on a 5/8 inch meter the quarterly base charge is \$39.42 for water and \$39.42 for sewer, and in a single-family home the first 18 hcf cost \$3.46 per hcf for water and \$10.36 for sewer. Sewer costs more than water . Billing 617-730-2170, Monday to Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. In a rental, get into the lease who holds the account.

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Trash: this is a subscription	In Brookline trash collection is not a free town service. The Town Waste Collection Service is a subscription and the fee depends on cart size: 35 gallons \$275, 65 gallons \$373, 95 gallons \$476 (FY26), billed in four equal installments with the July, October, January and April bills. In a multi-unit building the owner or the management is billed; if you move into a one or two family home, the subscription is yours. Sign up: refusebilling@brooklinema.gov or DPW Administration on the 4th floor of Town Hall. Collection is weekly and since July 1, 2025 Casella Waste Systems collects it; put the carts out after 3:30 p.m. the day before or before 7 a.m. on collection day.
☐ Register the children for school	Office of Registration and Enrollment, 333 Washington St., 4th Floor, (617) 264-6492, enroll@psbma.org . By online appointment only. Parent photo ID, one proof of residency and two proofs of occupancy dated within 45 days ; a mobile phone bill, a bank statement and the water bill are not accepted. No SSN appears on the list.
☐ If you rent, know your rights	Up front only the first month, the last month, a one-month deposit and the lock cost; application, move-in and background check fees are illegal. Since August 1, 2025 a tenant cannot be charged a broker fee. The town's Renters Handbook 2026-2027 is offered in about a dozen languages and the language list we read includes Turkish; the translation is free and you have to ask for it. We could not open the file, so we have not seen the Turkish text: if you cannot find it, ask ODEICR (ODEICR@brooklinema.gov) or Town Hall (617-730-2000). There is no rent control.
☐ Housing complaints	Structural and building code: Building Department, 333 Washington St., 3rd Floor, 617-730-2100. Heat, hot water, pests and mold fall under the State Sanitary Code and complaints go to the Department of Public Health and Human Services: 11 Pierce St., 617-730-2300. Watch out: heat-only complaints are not inspected between September 15 and June 15 unless the occupant asks for a full inspection, so say clearly that you are requesting a full inspection.
☐ Town services	We found no three-digit 311 line; requests go through BrookONline and the system is for non-emergency reports only. The numbers to keep: Town Hall 617-730-2000, police non-emergency 617-730-2222, and 911 in a life-threatening emergency. The town provides free interpreting and translation on request (ODEICR, 11 Pierce St., ODEICR@brooklinema.gov ; two town pages give different numbers, 617-730-2345 and 617-730-2326).
☐ Library card	The Public Library of Brookline issues a Minuteman network card. The main branch is Brookline Village, 361 Washington St., 617-730-2370; the others are Coolidge Corner (31 Pleasant St.) and Putterham (959 West Roxbury Parkway, Chestnut Hill). Free; a photo ID (a passport and a green card are both accepted) and a current proof of address are asked for, no SSN appears and immigration status is not asked. Museum passes are for Brookline residents only, and a Boston Public Library card does not work here.
☐ Apply for an SSN (if eligible)	There is no SSA office in Brookline. The nearest ones are on the Boston side (Roxbury, Roslindale, Dorchester and downtown), roughly 2 to 6 miles away; we could not confirm the street addresses, so check ssa.gov/locator . The general line is 1-800-772-1213.

Within 30 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Book the learner permit appointment	It is \$30 and the written exam comes in Turkish (25 questions, 18 correct). Watertown (550 Arsenal St., its own lot) or Haymarket (136 Blackstone St., no parking). The road test is only in Watertown, \$35. A Turkish license is not exchanged.
☐ If you arrived with a car, insurance first	No agent stamp on the RMV-1 means no registration, and have your Brookline street address entered as the garaging address. Minimum coverage is \$25,000 / \$50,000 bodily injury, \$30,000 property damage and \$8,000 PIP. No SSN is needed to register.
☐ Inspection within 7 days	Within seven days of registering, \$35, then annually. The town sends the excise bill: payable within 30 days, with a \$5 demand fee and 12 percent annual interest if late, and \$20 to clear a block.
☐ Apply for a parking permit	Transportation Division, 617-730-2177. Join the waiting list for the resident overnight permit; the daytime permit is about \$30 a year per vehicle and expires June 30.
☐ E-ZPass MA account	The transponder is free. Without an account every plate invoice adds \$0.60 and a tunnel crossing costs \$2.05 instead of \$1.50.
☐ CharlieCard and the Green Line	Subway \$2.40, local bus \$1.70, monthly LinkPass \$90. The town has 17 stops: 12 on the C branch, 5 on the D. Coolidge Corner to Park Street is 21 to 26 minutes, Brookline Village 19 to 21. All five D branch stops are accessible, half of the C branch is not. There is no commuter rail station in Brookline.

Health and insurance

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Life-threatening emergency	Call 911 or go to an emergency room: a hospital with an emergency department must screen and stabilize you regardless of your ability to pay, your insurance or your immigration status (EMTALA).
☐ There is no emergency department in town	We found no 24-hour emergency department inside Brookline's own boundary. The nearest ones sit on the town's northern edge, in Boston's Longwood area: Beth Israel Deaconess (330 Brookline Avenue, 617-754-2400), Brigham and Women's (75 Francis Street, 617-732-5636) and, for children, Boston Children's (300 Longwood Avenue, emergency medicine 617-355-6624). The Longwood stop on the D branch is the Brookline stop closest to that area.
☐ Ask for a financial counselor	Beth Israel Deaconess financial counseling 617-667-5661 (the policy summary says the full patient balance is written off at or below 400 percent of the poverty level on an annualized family income; we read that figure only from a search summary). Mass General Brigham patient financial counselors (617) 726-3884, and the policy says patients are cared for "regardless of insurance or immigration status" with a 70 to 100 percent discount for households below 301 percent of the poverty level.
☐ Walk-in care inside the town	Mass General Brigham Express Care (Brookline), 1285 Beacon St., for non-life-threatening conditions, age two and up, 617-751-6205, with extended hours to 8:30 p.m. It is for insured or self-pay patients; it is not free.

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ What is actually free	The town's flu clinics (the only 2026 date we could confirm is October 7, 2026, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Driscoll School; the town asks you to bring your insurance card and an ID), the pediatric immunization clinic (ages 1 to 18, 11 Pierce St., 2nd floor, by appointment Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., federally funded and free to eligible children), the state Behavioral Health Help Line 833-773-2445 and free peer recovery coaching (617) 487-4490. The mobile Family Van is also free but has no Brookline stop . Public health at 11 Pierce St., 617-730-2300, vaccine@brooklinema.gov.
☐ There is no free clinic in town	The Brookline Center for Community Mental Health (41 Garrison Road, (617) 277-8107) says it keeps fees as low as possible, but the model is mixed: most services are billed to insurance, others may be free or charged on a sliding scale. The federally supported centers nearby (Fenway Health, Whittier Street, Charles River Community Health, Brookside) are sliding fee, not free .
☐ Health Safety Net	It is not insurance; it is a fund that pays hospitals and community health centers, and there is no member card , so you ask for it at the registration desk. MassHealth 800-841-2900.
☐ Insurance is mandatory	Massachusetts has an individual mandate and you report it on Schedule HC; for tax year 2026 the penalty runs from \$26 to \$211 a month, with no penalty at or below 150 percent of the poverty level. Health Connector open enrollment is October 23, 2026 to January 23, 2027 , 1-877-623-6765. Crisis line 988.

60 to 90 days and beyond

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Taxes	The town has no income tax of its own. The state income tax is a flat 5 percent and short-term capital gains 8.5 percent, with an extra 4 percent above \$1,107,750. The personal exemption is \$4,400 single and \$8,800 married filing jointly. The deadline is April 15. Sales tax is 6.25 percent and restaurants add the town's 0.75 percent local meals tax (in force since October 1, 2009). The lodging tax is at the maximum the law allows, 6 percent. Half the rent you pay, up to \$4,000, is deductible on the state return. For an ITIN, file Form W-7; the nearest IRS office is the JFK building in Boston, by appointment (844-545-5640), roughly 4.5 miles from Town Hall or about 25 minutes on the Green Line.
☐ If you bought a home, property tax	The FY2026 residential rate is \$10.24 per \$1,000, with commercial and industrial at \$17.16 (Boston \$12.40, Cambridge \$6.67). On top sits a 20 percent residential exemption : in FY2026 it took \$354,974 of value out of the tax and saved \$3,634.93. The law allows up to 35 percent and the town does not use the maximum. The discount shows up on the third-quarter bill; if it does not, file the application with the Assessing Department by the close of business on April 1, 2027 . Ownership and occupancy are measured as of January 1. Tenants cannot claim it. Assessor, Town Hall, 333 Washington Street, 617-730-2060.
☐ A warning about the FY2027 rate	Brookline voters approved a Proposition 2 1/2 override on May 5, 2026 (reported as 8,675 to 5,732). The town voter guide said that if it passed the residential rate would rise by about \$0.30 per \$1,000 from \$10.24, to around \$10.54, and that the first-year increase on a median-valued single-family home would be about \$145. The official FY2027 rate is normally set in November or December 2026; if you are buying, budget somewhat above the FY2026 figure and confirm the rate at 617-730-2060.

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ The billing calendar	Four bills: August 1 and November 1 are preliminary, February 1 and May 1 are actual. If the first of the month falls on a weekend or a holiday, the next business day applies. The motor vehicle excise bill comes from the same office.
☐ Starting a company	A Certificate of Organization for an LLC is \$500 and the annual report another \$500 every year. If you trade under a name other than your own, you get a business certificate (DBA) from the Town Clerk, and the town's two sources disagree on the fee : the business portal says \$75 while the Town Clerk page says \$100 for residents and \$150 for non-residents. Call 617-730-2010 before you write the check; the Town Clerk is the authority. Whichever figure applies, it is the most expensive in the area (Newton \$35, Cambridge \$50, Boston \$65). A notarized signature is required and proof of address is a signed lease or a current property tax bill.
☐ Marriage license	Town Clerk, Town Hall, 333 Washington Street, 1st Floor, Room 104, 617-730-2010, townclerk@brooklinema.gov. Both applicants appear in person and an appointment is required ; marriage intention appointments are given Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday 9 to 11 a.m. The fee is \$50, with a three-day wait (weekends and holidays count, the filing day does not), valid 60 days and only in Massachusetts. The accepted proof of age explicitly includes immigration and naturalization records , so a Turkish passport works. A certified copy is \$15.
☐ Birth certificate	The same office. A certified copy is \$15, processed within one to two business days and then mailed, with no expedited mail option . The Clerk issues records for anyone born in Brookline and for people whose parents lived in Brookline at the time of the birth; because the town has no hospital of its own the baby is most likely born on the Boston side, so call 617-730-2010 first and ask which office holds the record. Order at least a week before a passport appointment.
☐ Consular business for Turkish citizens	The Turkish Consulate General is at 31 Saint James Avenue, Suite 840. Brookline has the easiest consular trip in this whole series : the Green Line reaches Arlington station with no transfer and Arlington is about 120 meters from the building; 16 minutes from Brookline Village, 19 from Brookline Hills and 20 from Coolidge Corner.
☐ Military service registration for men	Those born in 2007 and anyone without a deferral: by December 31, 2026 .

IF YOU ARE NOT A CITIZEN, REMEMBER

- Registering and voting are for citizens only. Answering "yes" to the citizenship question at the RMV registers you automatically; if you are not a citizen, say no.
- **Brookline is in Norfolk County, not Suffolk.** Boston surrounds the town on three sides and Newton in Middlesex County lies to the west, but Brookline itself belongs to Norfolk and the county seat is Dedham. That is not a map detail: a jury summons, the property tax and county business run through Norfolk's offices rather than Boston's. A jury summons can reach a noncitizen; the two possibilities are the Brookline District Court (360 Washington Street, clerk (617) 232-4660) and the Norfolk Superior Court in Dedham (649 High Street, 2nd floor, 8 a.m.; jury line (781) 830-4378, called after 3 p.m. the day before). Answer the summons, state that you are not a citizen, and send your alien card number, visa status or a copy of your passport (jurorhelp@jud.state.ma.us, 1-800-THE-JURY).
- Talk to an immigration attorney before you apply for, or drop, any public benefit: the new public charge rule has been in effect since September 18, 2026.
- The town police general order (General Order 43.0), the Select Board proclamation of February 10, 2026 and article 17 adopted by Town Meeting on May 28, 2026 bind only town employees and town property; they do **not bind ICE or CBP** and they give you no private right of action. The general order expressly excepts fingerprints, and according to the Town Administrator ICE can enter the lobbies of public buildings. On May 14, 2026 an ICE arrest took place in the street in Chestnut Hill (local reporting). Do not read any of it as a promise of protection.
- Check your I-94 record at i94.cbp.dhs.gov.
- If you have a pending green card application, do not travel abroad without advance parole.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN BROOKLINE

Have a question about your immigration status?

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