

CHECKLIST · CONNECTICUT

# Moving to Connecticut: A First 90 Days Checklist

What to do in order, the deadlines attached to each item and which office handles it. Print it and tick it off.

## SHORT ANSWER

Get your bearings first: **this state has no county government**. The eight counties were abolished as governments in 1960 and are now names on a map; everything another state sends you to a county for sits here in a **town or city hall**. If you are subject to the address reporting duty, USCIS gets **10 days** and the immigration court **5 days**. The license and the vehicle registration both run on a **90-day** clock and one appointment can carry both.

## Who handles what

| TASK                                       | THE BODY                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Real property valuation                    | The town or city <b>Assessor</b> ; there is one in each of the 169 towns                                                                               |
| Property tax bill and collection           | The town or city <b>Tax Collector</b>                                                                                                                  |
| Appealing a valuation                      | The town's <b>Board of Assessment Appeals</b>                                                                                                          |
| Land records, marriage license, trade name | The <b>Town Clerk</b>                                                                                                                                  |
| Birth, death and marriage records          | The town's <b>Registrar of Vital Statistics</b>                                                                                                        |
| Probate and guardianship                   | <b>Probate districts</b> , whose boundaries do not follow town lines                                                                                   |
| Schools                                    | The town's <b>Board of Education</b> or a regional school district                                                                                     |
| Regional planning and shared services      | Nine <b>Councils of Governments</b> ; in 2022 the Census Bureau replaced the eight counties with these nine regional councils for statistical purposes |

## The first 10 days

| TASK                                                          | WHERE / HOW                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Report your address to USCIS (AR-11) | <b>10 days</b> after you move. USCIS prefers the online report to the paper form: <a href="https://uscis.gov/addresschange">uscis.gov/addresschange</a> |

| TASK                                                                               | WHERE / HOW                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Form EOIR-33 if you have an immigration court case</b> | Within <b>5 days</b> . Do not mix the two clocks                                                                                                                                                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>If you changed town, you changed who taxes you</b>     | This is an item other states do not have. If you moved within the state, tell the <b>old town's tax collector</b> your new address, or the motor vehicle tax bill goes to the old address and you never see it |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Print your I-94 record</b>                             | <a href="https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov">i94.cbp.dhs.gov</a> · Your period of stay is the date on the I-94, not the validity of the visa                                                                              |

## The first week

| TASK                                                                      | WHERE / HOW                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Electricity account</b>                       | The bill splits in two: <b>delivery</b> (Eversource in most of the state, United Illuminating along the Bridgeport to New Haven shoreline; you cannot change it) and <b>supply</b> (Standard Service or a supplier you choose). The Standard Service price changes <b>every January 1 and July 1</b> , so do not rush into a fixed-price supplier contract in your moving month                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>If you have no SSN, know the deposit rule</b> | The regulation's definition of identification puts a <b>state identity card or driver's license</b> alongside a Social Security number. A deposit may be required <b>only</b> if you cannot give positive answers to at least <b>three of six credit questions</b> ; it is capped at <b>three twelfths of a year's estimated billing</b> , it earns interest, and <b>service may not be refused because the customer cannot afford it</b> . Before you apply, have a lease of a year or more, a bank account open at least a year and your employment details ready; those three are already three positive answers. <b>The regulation has no guarantor route</b> , but this package is stronger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Gas and water</b>                             | In the Hartford area the gas company is <b>Connecticut Natural Gas</b> , covering 26 communities. Water and sewer are the MDC, 860-278-7850, which is not a city department. <b>The deposit regulation does not cover the water and sewer bill or the municipal refuse charge</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Shutoff protections</b>                       | The company must give at least <b>13 days</b> notice before shutting off; paying at least 20 percent of the balance stops the shutoff and starts a fresh notice period; no shutoff on a Friday, a weekend, a public holiday or the day before one. <b>Between November 1 and April 15</b> there is no shutoff at all in listed low-income households. Regulator 1-800-382-4586                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Enroll the children</b>                       | With the town board of education. <b>Enrollment cannot be denied because you refuse to give a Social Security number</b> , citizenship or immigration documents may not be required, and a passport must be accepted in place of a birth certificate                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Apply for an SSN if you are eligible</b>      | National line 1-800-772-1213. The agency's own page gives the Hartford office as <b>960 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Hartford CT 06103</b> and (877) 619-2851, but we could not open that page directly and read the address through a search extract of the official domain. <b>Call before you go</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

#### IF YOU ARE RENTING: STRICT ON DEPOSITS, OPEN ON RENT INCREASES

- **The deposit is capped at two months' rent**, one month if the tenant is 62 or over. The money **remains the tenant's property**, is held in escrow at a financial institution in this state, and interest is paid every year on the **anniversary of the tenancy**. The 2026 rate is 0.49 percent; it changes every January and the current-rate line is 860-240-8199. The right to interest is lost for any month the rent is more than 10 days late.
- **Two official publications disagree on the return deadline**. The Department of Banking's May 2026 brochure gives **21 days** (or 15 days after receiving a written forwarding address, if the tenant gave none at the end of the tenancy); the Judicial Branch's January 2026 booklet still says **30 days**. Because the shorter figure is the more recent one and comes from the department that administers the statute, **work to 21 days**, but know the court's own booklet says 30 and act on the shorter period. A landlord who misses the deadline can owe the tenant **double the deposit**. Leave a **written forwarding address** when you move out, because without one the clock does not start.
- **There is no right to advance notice of a rent increase** unless your lease says so. During the term of a written lease the rent cannot be raised unless the lease allows it.
- **Rent control is illegal, but every municipality of at least 25,000 people must have a Fair Rent Commission**. It reviews harsh and unconscionable rent demands; it can investigate, hold hearings, issue subpoenas and administer oaths.
- Hartford's commission is on **860-757-9049**. **Only tenants apply, no written lease is required and no lawyer is required**. It can make three kinds of order: set the rent at a fair level, order an increase to be **phased in**, or **postpone an increase until repairs are done**. Among the 13 criteria it weighs are **the tenant's income and whether other housing is available that the tenant could afford**. Two official sources disagree on the address (260 Constitution Plaza, Plaza level, and 250 Constitution Plaza, 4th floor); the telephone number is the same in both, so call before you go.
- **Filing a fair rent commission complaint triggers a six-month bar on retaliation**. For an immigrant tenant that is the single most useful tool here. New Haven, Milford, Meriden and Newington each have their own commission, address and forms; there is no single statewide filing point.
- **In an eviction the payment window is nine days**: on a yearly or month-to-month tenancy the rent must be paid by midnight of the ninth day after it falls due. Eviction happens only through the court.

## Within 90 days

| TASK                                                                                   | WHERE / HOW                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>License and vehicle registration</b>                       | <b>90 days</b> , and one appointment can carry both. People who cannot prove status have the <b>drive-only license</b> ; people who have status may not apply for it. A Turkish knowledge test exists but <b>only as a paper test requested in advance</b> , so have the request put on the record on 860-263-5700 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Get the emissions test done before the DMV appointment</b> | Required for every vehicle older than four model years; a newer one still goes through VIN verification. Either way you receive a <b>Vehicle Inspection Report</b> and take it to the appointment                                                                                                                  |

| TASK                                                                                      | WHERE / HOW                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Do not leave the insurance with a gap, not even for a day</b> | Minimums are \$25,000 / \$50,000 / \$25,000. Insurers report gaps to the DMV automatically, a gap longer than <b>14 days</b> triggers a suspension notice, and the penalty is <b>\$200 per lapse</b>                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Your Turkish license is good for one year only</b>            | And only <b>together with an International Driving Permit</b> . Get the IDP before you leave Türkiye, it cannot be bought here. The state gives test-free treatment to Canada, Germany and France only                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No tolls here, but tolls as soon as you leave</b>             | There are no tolls on any highway, bridge or tunnel in the state and <b>no E-ZPass CT</b> , because the state is not an E-ZPass member. If you travel regularly to New York, Boston or Providence, open an account with <b>a neighboring state's agency</b> ; one tag works across the whole network                                                                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>If you are getting married</b>                                | The license comes from the Registrar of Vital Statistics of the <b>town where the ceremony will take place</b> , not the town where you live. \$50, valid 65 days, both parties in person. <b>From October 1, 2026 a minimum 48-hour waiting period applies</b> between completing the application and the license being issued, so you cannot apply and marry on the same day |

## Taxes: mills, the car, and two absences

- **The property tax rate is written in mills:** one mill is \$1 of tax for every \$1,000 of assessed value, and assessed value is **70 percent of market value**. The formula is (assessed value x mill rate) / 1,000.
- **The town-to-town spread is the widest in this series.** In fiscal 2027 the lowest town is 9.80 mills and the highest city is 69.95. Sample rates: Hartford 69.95 (32.46 on cars), Hamden 53.67, New Haven 39.962, Meriden 29.99, Milford 28.67, Greenwich 10.125, Salisbury 9.80.
- **Hartford carries three rates at once:** 69.95 on real and personal property, 32.46 on motor vehicles, and the city tax office also publishes a **residential effective rate of 36.20**. On top of that three special services districts add mills within their own boundaries: Park Street +3.5, Columbia Street and Park Terrace +2.3, Business Improvement District +1.7294. Statewide there are **525 separate rates** across 169 towns. **We do not publish the full residential assessment ratio**, because it could not be confirmed outside unofficial sources; use the effective rate and ask the assessor for the exact figure (860-757-9640).
- **The car is taxed as property every year** and the bill comes from the town where the vehicle is garaged on October 1. Since the October 1, 2024 list the value comes from MSRP reduced by a statutory depreciation schedule; no vehicle may be assessed below \$500.
- **The state income tax has seven brackets**, running from 2 percent to 6.99 percent. **No town takes a separate slice of your pay and there is no local sales tax either**, which is the exact opposite of Maryland and Ohio, researched in the same round.
- **The most useful ITIN fact in this series:** the IRS publishes **six cities** where your passport can be checked in person instead of being posted away: Bridgeport, Danbury, Hartford, New Haven, Norwalk and Waterbury.

## Health and insurance

- **The Medicaid program is called HUSKY Health** and comes in four lettered parts: A (children up to 19 and their parents), B (CHIP for uninsured children), C (adults 65 and over and adults with disabilities), D (low-income adults 19 to 64 without dependent children). Learn the letters, because every form and every clinic clerk uses them.
- **The key fact for families without status:** the state pays for its own coverage for **children aged 0 to 15** who cannot get regular coverage because of their immigration status, under State HUSKY A for Children and State HUSKY B for Children. **No equivalent program for adults was found.**
- **The eligibility list carries an uncertainty.** The marketplace words it as citizens, naturalized citizens, lawful permanent residents and other immigrants, and does not enumerate which categories count as other immigrants. The only thing stated plainly is that **DACA holders cannot enroll in the regular HUSKY programs**. We could not confirm the full list of qualified alien categories or whether the federal five-year bar applies here; call 1-855-805-4325 before you apply.
- **The state runs its own insurance marketplace**, not HealthCare.gov but **Access Health CT**. State law also bars a hospital from collecting **more than the cost of care** from an uninsured patient below 250 percent of the federal poverty level.
- **No clinic was found whose own website says its care is free.** The large federally funded health centers say they take patients regardless of ability to pay, which in practice means a discount geared to income: a bill you can afford, not no bill. A hospital financial assistance policy is not a clinic either, it is a bill reduction.

### ONE GOOD THING TO DO IN YOUR FIRST WEEK

If you live inside the City of Hartford, you can get a **Wadsworth Welcome** card for the city's great art museum. The card admits **you and up to four guests, free, every day the museum is open**, and there is **no cost to enroll**. The part that matters most for a newcomer: **you do not need a state license**. The museum's proof-of-address list expressly accepts **a valid passport, a green card, a lease or rent receipt from the last 60 days, and a utility bill from the current month**, so a Turkish family can enroll on a Turkish passport and a tenancy agreement before anyone in the household holds a state license. Immigration status is not asked. The test is **City of Hartford**, so West Hartford and East Hartford do not qualify; for them the museum is free all day on **the second Saturday of each month**. **Caution:** the museum's own pages refused every route we tried in this research, the figures and the document list were read from the site's indexed text, and **we could not read whether free admission covers special exhibitions**. If you are coming for a special exhibition, call the museum before you set out.

## After that

| TASK                                                                | WHERE / HOW                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Birth or death certificate</b>          | Three counters: the registrar of the town where the birth happened, the registrar of the town where the mother lived at the time, and the state office. <b>The town is both cheaper and usually faster:</b> a long-form birth certificate is \$20 at a town and \$30 from the state; the short form is \$15; a marriage or death certificate is \$20. <b>Any registrar in the state</b> with authorized access to the electronic system can issue a certified copy of an electronically filed record, so call your nearest town hall |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Who may request one</b>                 | Birth records are restricted more tightly than in most states in this series: <b>a sibling, an aunt, an uncle or a cousin cannot request one</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>U.S. passport application</b>           | Here the acceptance facilities are <b>post offices and public libraries</b> ; there is no county clerk and Hartford's Town and City Clerk is not an acceptance facility either. There are 129 facilities statewide                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Apostille for use in Türkiye</b>        | The <b>Secretary of the State, Authentications and Apostilles</b> : not a town, not a court. \$40 per document, \$15 for child adoption documents, expedited service adds \$50 per document. <b>We could not read those fees directly</b> and took them from a search extract of the official domain; confirm on (860) 509-6002                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>If you are starting a business</b>      | <b>Two separate doors:</b> the company itself is formed with the state, through the Secretary of the State's business services division; <b>the trade name, or DBA, goes to the Town Clerk</b> . A Certificate of Organization is \$120, the annual report is \$80 and is filed between January 1 and March 31. <b>We found no requirement for a sworn lawful-presence affidavit</b> to register a company                                                                                                                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Turkish military service obligation</b> | The deadline for men born in 2007 is December 31, 2026. The consulate is in Boston, about 100 miles from Hartford                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

### IF YOU ARE NOT A CITIZEN, REMEMBER

- **Do not register to vote.** Registration requires you to attest **under penalty of perjury** that you are a U.S. citizen, and doing that when you are not is a felony in this state and a separate federal offense.
- **Jury duty is different here.** This state differs from every other in the series: the statute says jurors shall be electors, **individuals lawfully admitted for permanent residence**, or citizens of the United States. So a green card holder is qualified to serve on a jury but may not register to vote.
- **The Trust Act does not protect you from federal immigration enforcement, and the statute itself says so.** It restricts what state and local law enforcement may do when a civil immigration detainer arrives; **it does not bind federal officers**, and ICE and CBP continue to act under their own federal authority.
- **Public charge:** on the federal side a new rule took effect on September 18, 2026 and it does not vary by state. On the state side the honest answer is that **we could not read the immigrant eligibility rules for the state's own benefit programs**, because the social services department's pages were closed to us. Talk to an immigration attorney before you apply for a means-tested benefit.
- If you have a green card application pending, do not travel abroad without advance parole.



## TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN CONNECTICUT

### Have a question about your immigration status?

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