

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · CROOKSTON

Driver Licenses in Crookston: Two Cards, One Trade, 2026 Guide

Licensing is a state matter and this city adds no rule of its own. But you cannot really postpone the license here: transit is a dial-a-ride that runs limited hours and does not run overnight.

SHORT ANSWER

Driver licenses are **a state matter** and Crookston adds no rule of its own. The state side in brief: a standard card application requires **no Social Security number**, the licensing department and its agents **may not ask** about an applicant's citizenship, immigration status or lawful presence, and statute bars that card from carrying **any indicator or design relating to status**. But the ban has **two exceptions**: on a federally compliant card or an enhanced license, proof of status is required and may be asked about. And **a federally compliant card issued to someone with temporary lawful status is marked "temporary."** The fee is identical, so the choice is not about money: it is **a trade between privacy and usability**. The one sentence specific to this city: we **could not confirm** whether a licensing and registration service point exists in Crookston or anywhere in **Polk County**, so this guide prints no address.

The state side: detail in the state guide, the dilemma here

We do not repeat the section numbers and full text here, because they work identically everywhere in the state and we set them out in [the driver license section of our Minnesota guide](#). Most readers hold H-1B, F-1 or a similar temporary status and want a card they can use at the airport, which pushes them toward the federally compliant card. Before you decide, put side by side what each card gives and what it takes.

CRITERION	STANDARD CARD	FEDERALLY COMPLIANT CARD
Number requirement	No Social Security number required	Proof of status required
Status marking on the face	Barred by statute	Marked for temporary status
Can status be asked at application	No, the statute forbids it	Yes, within the exception
Use as federal identification	The card says it cannot be used	Can be used
Fee	Identical	Identical

THE INVERTED TRAP: SHOWING DOCUMENTS GETS YOU A SHORTER CARD

- A card issued to a person with temporary lawful status expires **on the last day of their legal stay**, or **one year** after issuance if that day is not identified.
- So a person who arrived on a visa and showed documents receives **a shorter card** than someone who never documented their status at all.
- **Extending status and renewing the card are two separate jobs** and one expires before the other. Set your renewal calendar accordingly.
- An error on your entry record goes straight onto your card, because the expiry comes from there. Check it at i94.cbp.dhs.gov; we **could not confirm** the location or hours of the office that corrects entry errors in this region, so read the list from the agency's own page and **write first, travel second**.

What this city adds: nothing to the rule, distance to the plan

- **The city has no authority here.** Licensing is a Driver and Vehicle Services function; use the department's own page for appointments and service points. **This guide prints no counter address**, because we could not confirm whether one exists in Crookston or in Polk County.
- **Plan it backwards.** When you book, ask the department's own line **where the nearest service point is**, budget the round trip, and go prepared to **finish in one visit**. What is a half-day errand for a metro reader can take a full day here.
- **The ban is not absolute.** It covers the standard card only; at the federally compliant and enhanced license desk, proof of status is required. Do not arrive unprepared and do not spend appointment day arguing about the difference.
- **Do not confuse two counters.** Birth certificates, marriage licenses and property records sit at the Polk County Recorder, **612 N Broadway, Room 225**; licensing is on the state side and is an entirely different door.
- **Call before you set out.** Confirm the office is open that day. A wasted trip from here is not an hour, it is hours.

Can you postpone the license in Crookston?

Mostly no, and the reason is the transit table. Transit here is not a municipal bus line: the service is T.H.E. Bus, provided by Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, a community action agency, and its form is **a curb-to-curb, wheelchair-accessible dial-a-ride**. The detail that differs from the metro systems: **there is no age limit and no income guideline**, the service is open to anyone. In the metro, a reduced fare required paperwork and an application; here it is not a discount but **the service itself** that comes without conditions. In exchange **the hours are limited** and you have to arrange the trip in advance. **There is no light rail, no bus rapid transit, no express lane, and the metro's regional fare card does not work here**: Crookston sits outside the Metro Transit network and the regional council's area.

DAY	HOURS	NOTE
Monday to Friday	5:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.	The widest window
Saturday	10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Six hours

DAY	HOURS	NOTE
Sunday	7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	You must call ahead, no dispatcher on duty

- The numbers are **218-281-0700** and the toll-free line **800-201-3432**; the office is at **1345 Fairfax Ave.** Use the hours **after confirming by phone**, because the schedule changes with the season and with announcements.
- The service spans eight counties and has out-of-town destinations too: Grand Forks, Bemidji, Thief River Falls, Fargo and Moorhead.
- **One detail changes the whole plan:** the Grand Forks route runs on the **first, third and fifth Mondays** of the month, not every day. Build a doctor's appointment, a federal appointment or a flight around that calendar.
- **There is no overnight service.** That means waiting for morning on a night when your car has been towed or plowed in.

TWO DATES YOU CANNOT POSTPONE, LICENSE OR NO LICENSE

- From **November 14 through April 1**, between **1 and 7 a.m.**, this city runs **calendar parking**: on an even-numbered day you may not park on the even-numbered address side of the street, on an odd-numbered day not on the odd side.
- **The rule runs whether or not snow falls.** You are not waiting for a declaration, you are reading the calendar.
- **And during a declared snow emergency you may not park on any street or alleyway at all**, with police able to have a vehicle removed at the owner's expense. The detail is in our vehicle guide.
- **None of the four neighboring settlements has calendar parking**, and the reverse holds too: do not apply the odd-even reflex you learn here once you are in the metro.

- 1 Decide which card you want.** Since the fee is identical this is not a money decision; you are choosing between a card with no status marking that you cannot fly on and a stamped federally compliant card.
- 2 Book through the department's own system** and ask on the same call where the nearest service point is; this guide prints no address and we could not confirm whether one exists here.
- 3 Take your status document if you are going for the federally compliant card.** The no-questions rule does not operate at that desk.
- 4 If you hold temporary status, put the card's expiry date in your calendar** and check your entry record first.
- 5 Carry your passport for flights.** The standard card is not an accepted document at the checkpoint.
- 6 If you are planning to live without a car, try the dial-a-ride once** and ask three things on the first call: how far in advance a trip must be arranged, which days the out-of-town routes run, and how the fare is paid.
- 7 Keep the address-change obligation separate from the license.** Giving your address to the licensing department does not satisfy the federal requirement.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY FOR CROOKSTON

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Crookston and the surrounding area, in Turkish and English, and consultations run remotely. Free evaluation: clinchlaw.com/free-evaluation · +1 866-491-7669

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