

CHECKLIST · CROOKSTON

Moving to Crookston: A First 90 Days Checklist (2026)

What a newcomer has to do, in order, with the deadlines and where each is done. Print it and tick the boxes.

SHORT ANSWER

The first ten days are federal: **if you are subject to address reporting, tell USCIS within 10 days**, and if you have a case in immigration court, tell the court **within 5 days**. Day one is about the city: **explain calendar parking to your household**, because from **November 14 through April 1** one side of the street is closed every night between **1 and 7 a.m.**, set by whether the day is odd or even. The first week has four items: set a repeating phone reminder for **the 5th of the month**, because the water bill is **monthly** and a late payment picks up a charge; **decide whether you want the bin service**, because garbage collection here is optional and you may haul your own to the transfer station; **get the name and type of your electricity and gas provider in writing from the city utility office**, because **this guide names no company** and which statute protects you in winter depends on the type of provider; and **sign up for the emergency alert system**, because there is no 311 in this city. And put two dates in your calendar today: **December 31** for the homestead classification and **January 31** for the rent certificate from your landlord.

The first 10 days

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Report your address to USCIS	As a general rule required for most non-citizens including green card holders, within 10 days ; A and G visa holders and visa waiver visitors are excepted. uscis.gov/addresschange . Moving from one street to another inside the city counts , and so does moving to another apartment in the same building
☐ Update each pending case separately	Filing AR-11 does not change the address on a pending application by itself; enter the receipt number for each one
☐ If you have an immigration court case	Within 5 days , on Form EOIR-33/IC: respondentaccess.eoir.justice.gov . There is one court in the state, so moving within Minnesota does not move your case to another court
☐ If you have an ICE reporting obligation	Report the address through portal.ice.gov as well. Confirm check-in locations from the agency's own check-in page; if you hold an appointment notice, the address on that notice governs

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Do not settle for telling local agencies	Giving your address to the licensing department, the city water division, the school district or the Polk County human services office does not satisfy the federal requirement , and a change of address at the post office does not update the USCIS record
☐ Do not treat a post office box as the solution	Using a box at a rural address is common, but the agency wants the address where you actually live ; put your residential address on the report

THE TWO ADDRESS MISTAKES MADE MOST OFTEN HERE

- **Treating distance as an exemption. What triggers the obligation is the move itself**, not crossing a county or city line. Living in a small city does not soften it.
- **Underestimating what a missed letter costs.** If an interview notice or a request for evidence goes to the old address, the deadline passes. There is an extra reason here: **there is no federal counter nearby where you can fix it.**
- **This whole section can be completed online**, and it is one of the few entirely remote items in this guide. If you have no connection at home, use the public computers and the borrowable wireless hotspots at the library branch.
- One thing changed in 2026: account for the federal rule that **took effect on June 29, 2026** and reorganized alien registration and what counts as evidence of registration, readable in the [federalregister.gov](https://www.federalregister.gov) record.

The first week

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Explain calendar parking to your household	November 14 to April 1, 1 to 7 a.m.: on an even-numbered day the even-address side is closed, on an odd-numbered day the odd side. It runs whether or not snow falls. During a declared emergency you may not park anywhere, alleys included
☐ Set the rhythm of the water bill	Water and sewer come from the city's own divisions; billing is monthly , the due date is the 5th , and a late payment picks up a late charge . Set a repeating monthly reminder
☐ A bank account comes before automatic payment	Automatic payment needs an authorization form plus a U.S. bank account : a voided check for checking, a deposit slip for savings. Automatic payment by credit card is not on this route. The order is clear: bank account first, then automatic payment
☐ If you rent, ask two questions before you sign	We could not find whether the water account can be opened in a renter's name or whether a deposit or a number is required; we do not carry the neighboring suburbs' answer here. Ask: whose name will the bill be in, and who pays for the water
☐ Decide about the bin service	It is optional : you can take a 95-gallon garbage and recycling bin through the city, or haul your own to the transfer station at Ingersol Avenue and Foscett Street . Garbage is weekly, on Wednesdays; recycling is once a month , on the Wednesday of the first full week. The bin must be out by 6 a.m. and may not be left out more than 24 hours

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Ask which recycling model is in force	The City's own site describes recycling two different ways and both cannot be true: one page makes the City's blue containers mandatory with materials sorted by type , the other describes a single-stream 95-gallon bin. We take no side. Call and ask: which model is in force, do I need to buy a container, is sorting required. 218-281-1232 and 218-281-5711
☐ Get your provider's name and type in writing	We could not verify the electricity and natural gas provider and this guide names no company. Call the city utility office. The reason is concrete: the winter shutoff ban sits in two separate statutory sections , investor-owned companies in one and municipal utilities and cooperatives in the other, and your notice period and complaint route change accordingly
☐ Sign up for the emergency alert system	The City sends emergency notifications through the Everbridge alert platform and you have to sign up. Snow emergencies and water interruptions are announced there. Winter parking restrictions also go out on KROX radio, cable channel 3, the Crookston Times and the City's Facebook page
☐ Do not dial 311, it does not work	The City's channel is the complaint and report form on its site, plus City Hall and department numbers. City Hall is at 124 North Broadway , weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Note the report number
☐ Get the library card	The card is free , the accepted identification list is broad and no Social Security number is asked for. The branch is at 110 N. Ash, 218-281-4522. On the same visit ask about the legal kiosk : how it works, whether an appointment is needed, which hours it is available
☐ Start school enrollment for the children	There is one district , Crookston Public Schools (ISD 593), district office 402 Fisher Avenue, Suite 593, 218-281-5313. The published document list is two items: immunization records and a birth certificate
☐ Do not delay the health application	A child under 18 can enroll regardless of status in the state's own program, and pregnancy coverage runs 12 months after the birth. Three doors take the application: the Polk County human services office, the state human services department at 1-800-657-3672 , and the state marketplace at 1-855-366-7873
☐ Set up transportation	The dial-a-ride is 218-281-0700 or 800-201-3432. Ask on the first call: how far in advance a trip must be arranged, which days the out-of-town routes run, how the fare is paid. If you are thinking about a Sunday trip, call on Friday , because the Sunday dispatcher is not on duty

Numbers and addresses: save them once

OFFICE	NUMBER OR ADDRESS
City Hall	124 North Broadway , weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Public works	218-281-5711
Director's line	218-281-1232
Library branch	110 N. Ash · 218-281-4522 · crookston@larl.org

OFFICE	NUMBER OR ADDRESS
County recorder and vital records counter	612 N Broadway, Room 225 · 218-281-3464 · weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
School district office	402 Fisher Avenue, Suite 593 · 218-281-5313
Dial-a-ride	218-281-0700 · toll-free 800-201-3432 · office 1345 Fairfax Ave.
Emergency	911 · crisis line 988

The waste calendar you will follow all year

- **Garbage is weekly, on Wednesdays. Recycling is once a month**, on the Wednesday of the first full week.
- **Branches and yard waste:** the **second and fourth Monday** of the month from May through October. **Branches not cut to four-foot lengths and bundled are left behind**; twigs go in boxes or bags, leaves and grass in bags.
- **There are two clean-up weeks a year.** The dates announced for 2026 are **April 20 to 24** and **October 19 to 23**, with collection days on **April 27** and **October 26**.
- **There is a walk-up collection service for a resident who cannot bring the bin to the curb.** The request form is dropped off at City Hall and forwarded by the public works director. A newcomer often does not know such a service exists.
- **Removal of a diseased elm** is scheduled by calling City Hall.
- **The water is hard:** on the City's own published figure, **17 grains**. Expect scale in the kettle and on faucet aerators; if you rent, ask whether the house has a softener.

Renting: not the price, the way in and the way out

The honest answer to both questions lands in the same place: on rent limits and on a landlord asking about status, **we found no local ordinance in this city**, so your protections are **the state floor**. Search results keep sending you to the metro cities' pages, and "that city has it" is not the same as "it applies here." On rent control the state statute does not impose a flat ban on cities: the first clause forbids it, the second lifts the ban if the measure is **approved at a general election**. So it is **a procedural condition**. St. Paul went through that door, Minneapolis did not hold the vote, and **we found no such vote here**.

PROVISION	WHERE IT EXISTS	HERE
Ban on a landlord asking about status or refusing over an ITIN	Minneapolis, the city's own tenant rights page	Research could not confirm it
Rent stabilization and an increase cap	St. Paul, by ballot measure	Research could not confirm it
Rental licensing and tiered inspection	Minneapolis	Research could not confirm it
An official municipal immigration resource page	Minnetonka	Research could not confirm it

- **We are not saying there is none, we are saying we did not find one.** Before you sign, ask the city: is there a local ordinance, a license or an inspection regime covering rentals here. If there is, ask for it in writing.
- **There is no cap on the deposit amount**, but the landlord must pay **one percent simple interest per year** and must return the deposit, or **a written statement of the reasons for withholding it, within three weeks** of the end of the tenancy. A landlord who misses the deadline faces a presumption that the withholding was **in bad faith**. Leave a forwarding address in writing when you move.
- **A late fee may not exceed eight percent of the overdue rent** and may be charged only if **agreed in writing**; the agreement must also state when the fee applies.
- **Being paid for with public assistance cannot be a reason to refuse you:** the state human rights act lists **status with regard to public assistance** as a protected class in housing. The exemption is narrow: only an owner-occupied single-family home renting out a room.
- **Eviction only through the courts.** Unlawfully and intentionally locking a tenant out, or **cutting off utilities** to that end, is set out as a crime. **To end a periodic tenancy** the written notice period is one rental interval or three months, whichever is shorter.
- **The state provision is a retaliation provision, not a screening provision.** The relevant state statute lists **contacting law enforcement about a tenant's immigration status** among a landlord's prohibited acts, but the prohibition is triggered by the tenant having done **a protected act**, such as reporting a code violation or joining a tenant association. So **writing "your landlord cannot report you" would be wrong**. A separate general retaliation section also helps on proof: if the act occurs **within 90 days** of the complaint, **the burden shifts to the landlord**.
- **If the status question comes anyway**, note the date, the time and who you spoke to, keep the listing and the correspondence, and show them to an attorney. **Do not assume** you hold a city provision that would stop it.
- **Two doors are used together.** The statewide tenant advocacy organization that gives free legal advice on tenant rights by phone is called HomeLine, and it can be reached from here. For vacancies and housing assistance waiting lists, HousingLink is the route. The second door is **the legal kiosk at the library**, set up as a route into civil legal aid, which is exactly where tenancy disputes sit. **Free advice from an advocacy organization and legal representation in an immigration case are not the same thing.**

Before you sign, ask for four things **in writing**: the deposit amount and the terms of its return, **the amount of the late fee and when it applies, which bills belong to whom**, and whether the garbage bin service comes with the property or you subscribe yourself.

Within 30 days

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Insurance and vehicle registration	Minnesota is a no-fault state; compare quotes on the coverage list and ask about interpretation tied to medical care and about coverage in Canada . We could not verify the number requirement for registration, so call the counter
☐ Buy non-studded winter tires	Studded tires are banned, chains are allowed. The nonresident exception does not apply to someone who works or studies here
☐ If your car is towed	Make the first call to 218-281-5711 and ask about the second possibility: the car may not have been towed but plowed in . The impound address, the fee schedule and who may collect it could not be found , so ask the three questions on the phone

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Apply early for energy assistance	The shutoff ban window is October 1 to April 30 , the ceiling is 50 percent of state median household income , and there is no temperature trigger . If you receive any public assistance whose threshold qualifies, you are deemed to meet the income test. The protection is not automatic ; a household that ignores the notice can be disconnected on January 15. Water and sewer are entirely outside this regime
☐ Keep your provider's annual notice	The application form comes with it. On the municipal and cooperative side there are extra protections: no disconnection on a Friday, a weekend, a holiday or when the offices are closed, and before disconnecting the utility must confirm occupancy
☐ Register with a sliding-fee health center	Before a problem arises. A sliding fee is not the same as free , and even the lowest band carries a minimum charge . This guide names no clinic; enter your address into the official search tool and call the two nearest centers
☐ Set up the tax side	No city tax is withheld from your pay and none can be; the state income tax has four brackets with a top rate of 9.85 percent . If you need an ITIN, file Form W-7; we publish no IRS office address , and the appointment line is 844-545-5640
☐ Think twice before mailing your passport for an ITIN	We could not verify which offices review ITIN documents in Minnesota and you should assume the nearest one is not here . In practice the choice is between mailing your passport and finding an authorized acceptance agent. If an immigration matter is pending, being without your passport for weeks is a real problem

NO LOCAL INCOME TAX AND NONE IS POSSIBLE, BUT LOCAL SALES TAX EXISTS

- **The correct sentence:** [the relevant statute](#) does not allow any county, city or town **to impose a new tax on income or sales, or to increase an existing one**, and the text contains no exception. Your pay stub shows only federal and state withholding.
- **The incorrect sentence:** "there is no local tax here." The ban concerns a city acting **on its own**, and the legislature **authorizes local sales taxes city by city through special laws**. So **local sales taxes do exist**.
- **And here that is sharper than in the metro:** driving to a neighboring town, a neighboring county or across the state line for a large purchase is ordinary behavior here, and **that drive can change the sales tax rate you pay**. On furniture, a remodeling invoice or a vehicle purchase that is real money.
- **This guide prints no local sales tax rate**, because research could not verify one this round and the City's site was closed to automated access. Read the rate from **the Minnesota Department of Revenue rate lookup and the city's own finance page**. If you do not see a rate here, that is a deliberate decision, not an omission.
- **If your household has income in two states, build the filing with an advisor**. Living near a border does not change the tax side by itself, but working in another state while living here raises the question of how to file, and **we could not verify those rules this round**.

If you bought a home, and if you rent: two dates, two amounts

DECEMBER 31 AND JANUARY 31

- **An ITIN is enough for the homestead classification**, and both the Minnesota Department of Revenue and the statute say so expressly. There are three conditions: own the property, use it as **your sole or primary residence**, and be a Minnesota resident. The rule is the state's, **the application is the county's**: it goes to the Polk County assessor.
- **The first trap is the number of a spouse who does not live there.** The statute asks for the number of every owner who occupies the property and **of each owner's spouse, even if that spouse does not live at the address**; if it is not provided the household drops to **partial homestead treatment**. In a newly arrived family that spouse is often still in Türkiye; **put the spouse's ITIN application at the front of the calendar**.
- **The second trap is that December 31 is a hard date.** A buyer who closes in November and does not apply loses the classification for an entire payable year. The **December 15** date circulating in older sources is not valid.
- **You have a reporting obligation:** on a move, a sale, a change of marital status or a change in the spouse's occupancy, you must notify the assessor **within 30 days**. There is a convenience too: once granted, **you do not have to reapply every year. Relative homesteads do not qualify for the property tax refund**.
- **If you rent, the renter credit** is no longer a separate form; it is claimed as a refundable credit **inside your state income tax return**, and one condition is **a valid number or ITIN**. Your landlord must give you the certificate showing rent paid **by January 31**.
- **If they do not, the route is not closed:** from **February 1** you can request a **rent paid affidavit** from the Minnesota Department of Revenue. If you file by mail you must attach copies of all rent certificates. The request asks you to email **only the last four digits** of your identification number; take that rule seriously.
- **This guide prints no county property tax rate**, because research could not verify one. Read it from the assessor or from the tax statement you receive, and do not rely on a rate you find online.

Within 90 days

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Plan your Türkiye errands	Minnesota falls in the consular district of the Consulate General in Chicago , and there is no Turkish mission in the state. In-person service by appointment runs only from 9:30 a.m. to noon , and this is not a day trip from here; the detail is in our consulate guide
☐ If you need an apostille, keep the order	Get the document, have it notarized if required, apostille last . The office is in the state capital, the fee is \$5 per apostille , and from here mailing it is all but the only sensible route . Use a tracked shipment
☐ Voter registration and jury duty	Registering and voting belong to U.S. citizens only , municipal elections included; do not tick the citizenship box on any form and do not fill in registration forms handed out at events. If a jury summons arrives, call the court named at the top of the letter ; a summons here comes either from the county's state court or from the federal court

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Talk to an attorney before applying for public benefits	The federal rule that took effect on September 18, 2026 widened the officer's discretion. Put two dates in your calendar: January 1, 2026 (the state program closed to undocumented adults) and January 1, 2027 (marketplace savings narrow to three statuses)
☐ Refugee cash assistance: the door is different here	In our metro guides this errand sits with the state office; here it does not . Polk County does not appear on the list of counties where the state resettlement programs office took the work over, so for a reader here it is a county errand . This item is at MEDIUM confidence, get it confirmed: on your first call ask "do you administer this, or does the state office?" The refugee and immigrant helpline is 1-800-814-4806
☐ If you start a business, budget the newspaper notice	Formation goes to the Minnesota Secretary of State : articles of organization for an LLC cost \$135 by mail and \$155 in person or online, with free annual renewal. If you register an assumed name it must be published in two consecutive issues in the county of your principal place of business , which here means the Polk County market. We print no price for the notice , the publisher sets it
☐ Treat a city license as a separate door	Restaurants, salons, childcare and similar activities may need the city's or the county's own license. We could not verify which activity needs which license; before you finish forming the company, go to City Hall or ask through the complaint and request form
☐ Keep your tax records	Copies of federal and state returns are often requested in green card and citizenship applications

Numbers to know in Crookston

TOPIC	FIGURE
Name of the winter parking regime	Calendar parking. None of the four neighboring settlements has it
The calendar parking window	November 14 to April 1, 1 to 7 a.m. , even-address side on an even day, odd side on an odd day
Declared snow emergency	Declared by 4 p.m. , effective at midnight that evening; no parking at all, alleys included
Plowing and sanding threshold	Three inches of accumulation, or when drifting and icing seriously affect travel
Alleys	Plowed. St. Paul, by contrast, says its alleys are never plowed
Water bill	Monthly , due on the 5th , with a late charge if missed
Water hardness	17 grains
Garbage and recycling	Bin service is optional ; garbage weekly, Wednesdays , recycling once a month , bin out by 6 a.m. and no more than 24 hours
2026 clean-up weeks	April 20 to 24 and October 19 to 23 ; collection days April 27 and October 26
Number of school districts	One. The document list is two items: immunization records and a birth certificate

TOPIC	FIGURE
Library card	Free , no number requested, renewed every three years ; online applications return a number within one to four business days
Transit	A curb-to-curb dial-a-ride with no age limit and no income guideline ; weekdays 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Deposit and return period	No cap on the amount, one percent interest per year, return within three weeks , late fee capped at eight percent
Homestead and renter credit dates	December 31 and January 31
Distance to the metro	About 450 kilometers , and that is a road estimate, not an official measurement

WEEKEND PLANNING: DO NOT MIX UP WHAT IS NEAR WITH WHAT IS FAR

- **This city's own answer is the outdoors.** The Red Lake River runs through town and the state's natural resources department lists it as a **water trail**, describing it as **one of very few paddling rivers in north-west Minnesota**. Read the current rules and any permit requirements from the department's own page; **we print no license rule and no fee here**.
- The City publishes a **trails and natural amenities** page listing a **roughly 1.5 mile trail with disc golf and picnic tables**. There is also the Red River Valley Natural History Area: **about 85 acres and 4.35 miles of nature trail**. On the City's own page, entering the area requires a **free permit** obtained from the university campus. **We could not verify that permit information**, so call before you set out with children.
- **State park vehicle permits are lent out by libraries**, and this is about the only item on which a metro reader and a reader here are equal: the permit is valid for **seven days**, must be displayed on the dashboard, the supply is limited, it is picked up in person, and it **covers the vehicle entry fee only**. **We could not confirm that the branch here takes part in the program**, so call and ask. **We print no park fee**.
- **Four free entrance days** are announced each year; the remaining one for 2026 is **November 27, 2026**. The waiver covers entry only, not camping or rentals. There are free and reduced permit categories too, and some of them are common in households in this region.
- **The metro's famous free places are not this city's items.** The Minneapolis Institute of Art, the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, Como Park Zoo & Conservatory and the free tour of the state capitol really are free, **but all four are about 450 kilometers away**. Plan them as **a weekend trip**, not an afternoon, and add them to a trip you are making to the metro for some other reason.
- **The City's own parks, pool, sports center and the county museum are not on this list**, because those pages were unreachable this round. **We neither claim they exist nor that they do not; we print no address, hours or fee**. Ask at City Hall.
- **On national park free entrance days we take no side:** the agency's own pages carry three different formulations of who they cover, and **no official page defines who counts as a "resident."** If you are not a citizen, call the park you plan to visit before you set out.

IF YOU ARE NOT A CITIZEN, REMEMBER

- Do not tick the citizenship box on any form and do not register to vote. In a small city registration forms circulate at fairs, school events and town meetings, and the person holding one out may be someone you know; **still do not fill it in and do not take it.** If a jury questionnaire arrives, do not leave it blank; tell the court named on the letter.
- Talk to an immigration attorney before applying for a public benefit, dropping one you have, or moving from one program to another.
- Check your entry record at i94.cbp.dhs.gov. Your work authorization, your license expiry and some application eligibilities depend on it; a license issued to someone with temporary lawful status expires **on the last day of their stay.**
- If a green card application is pending, do not travel abroad without advance parole.



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
Office: 321 N Central Expy, Ste 206, McKinney, TX 75070

Attorney responsible for this guide: Asim Clinch, Esq., Clinch Law Firm P.C. Attorney Asim Clinch is a member of the Missouri Bar (No. 76084) and practices U.S. federal immigration law.

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