

STEP BY STEP GUIDE · ELIZABETHTOWN

How to Get a Driver's License in Elizabethtown: 2026 Guide

The city has its own licensing office, and that is an advantage. In exchange you have to keep three agencies apart and know from the start what your card's term is tied to.

SHORT ANSWER

Start with the good news: this city has its own licensing office. On the state licensing agency's office list, the **Elizabethtown Regional Office** appears as its own entry at **916 N Mulberry St, 42701**, open **Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, and the agency's list tags the office **Eastern Time**. **But you have to keep three agencies apart, because in Kentucky you cannot finish everything at one counter: licenses and ID cards** at the state's regional offices, **vehicle titling and registration** at the county clerk, and **testing** by the state police. **And the old Kentucky instructions you will find online are now wrong:** licensing moved from circuit court clerks to the state's own regional offices in **2022**. For a newcomer the deadline is **30 days**, and that figure is single and clear on the agency's page. **If you are not a citizen your card term is not 4 or 8 years:** it is tied to the term of your immigration document.

Three agencies, three separate doors

WHAT	AGENCY	WHERE IN THE CITY
License, learner permit, ID card	The state licensing agency's Driver Licensing Regional Offices	916 N Mulberry St, 42701 · Mon to Fri 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Titling, registration, plates, annual vehicle tax	Hardin County Clerk	150 N Provident Way, Suite 103 · 270-765-6762
Written, vision and road tests	Kentucky State Police	An appointment can be made at any regional office in the state

The appointment rule favors you and it is written in the agency's own words: a driver testing appointment can be made at any regional office in the state **regardless of which county you live in**, and the licensing agency says you may bring your documents to **any regional office**. **So if the wait at the Elizabethtown office is long, you can go to a neighboring one.**

TIME ZONE WARNING: IT CARRIES EXTRA WEIGHT IN THIS CITY

- **Kentucky is split across two time zones.** Elizabethtown and the whole county are in **Eastern Time**, but the state's zone boundary runs **along this county's west and south lines**.
- **Two official sources confirm this independently:** the state licensing agency's office list **tags each office with a zone** and **this city's office is tagged Eastern** while a neighboring office carries a **Central** tag; and the federal regulation describes the boundary **by county names**.
- **Because you can book at any office in the state, the consequence is concrete:** pick an office to the west or south and **the clock changes too**.
- **One rule:** when you book, **ask which zone the time is given in**. An hour's difference is a real risk here.

Fees, from the agency's own price list

CARD	STANDARD 4 YEAR	STANDARD 8 YEAR	REAL ID 4 YEAR	REAL ID 8 YEAR
Driver's license	\$21.50	\$43.00	\$24.00	\$48.00
Motorcycle license	\$21.50	\$43.00	\$24.00	\$48.00
Driver and motorcycle combined	\$26.50	\$53.00	\$29.00	\$58.00
ID card	\$11.50	\$23.00	\$14.00	\$28.00
Learner permit	\$15.00 (3 years)	-	\$18.00 (3 years)	-

The agency's own sentence: **"Payment types accepted: credit, debit, cash and check."** But the choice between four and eight years does not apply if you are not a citizen - see the next heading.

If you are not a citizen: term, card type and the ten day rule

- **Your card term is tied to your immigration document.** The agency's sentence: **"A license or ID card issued to a non-U.S. citizen will expire with their USCIS documents."** The statute states the same rule as **the term of the document or 8 years, whichever is shorter**. If the document has no end date, the card is valid for **one year**.
- **Special statuses** (asylee, refugee, humanitarian parole, K-1 applicant) receive a **four year** card.
- **Card type:** the statute says an applicant who is not a citizen or lawful permanent resident is issued **"only a standard"** license or permit. **So you cannot get a REAL ID. No agency record was found showing a status legend printed on the card**, and the bill that would have added one **did not pass**.
- **Where you apply:** the statute says the application goes to **the state headquarters or a field office, not the county clerk**.
- **Verification:** the agency's step list says **"Complete the SAVE Verification process at the office"**; your status is checked in a **federal system** during the application.
- **The ten day rule, in the statute's own words:** if there is **any change** in your immigration status you must apply to update your license **within ten days**. **This is one of the most overlooked items in the series.**

- If your identity and status are verified, you receive **a temporary document valid for 30 days** until the permanent card arrives by mail.

Documents: three rules speak directly to a Turkish reader

If you are coming from another state the agency's list is: proof of lawful presence in the United States, a **Social Security card**, **proof of Kentucky residency no older than one year (two for a REAL ID)**, your previous state's license, and a name change document if any. Three additional rules, in the agency's own words:

- **"All documentation must be in the original form and is subject to approval." - photocopies are not accepted.**
- **"Foreign licenses, birth certificates, and marriage licenses must include a notarized, translated statement." - a Turkish license, birth certificate or marriage certificate needs a notarized translation.** Arrange the translation and the notary **before your appointment**; water service and electric membership in this city also require a notary, so **handle them all in one notary visit.**
- Lawful permanent residents must show their current card **for every transaction, including renewals and updates.**

One convenience for those awaiting an extension: in the agency's words, **a digital I-797C** can be accepted, but **you must print it** so the office can scan it into your record.

What happens with a Turkish license: exams, not a course

First, a correction: do not carry over the rule from the previous round of this series. In a neighboring state, not being on the reciprocity list meant **a mandatory driving course**; in Kentucky **it does not**. The licensing agency's reciprocity note names **two countries - Taiwan and South Korea** - and **Turkey is not on that list**, but the consequence is not a course, it is **the full testing set**. The agency's sentence is **"Applicant must start with a driver's permit."** Mandatory driver education in this state is written only for those **under 18**.

YOUR SITUATION	WHAT THE AGENCY'S TABLE REQUIRES
Turkish license + Green Card, country on the accepted list	Vision + Written
Turkish license + Green Card, country not on the accepted list	Vision + Written + Road ; start from a learner permit
Turkish license, no Green Card, country on the accepted list	Vision + Written + Road
Turkish license, no Green Card, country not on the accepted list	Written + Vision + Road ; start from a learner permit
A valid license from another US state	No tests
Another state's license, expired less than a year	No tests

What the table really tells you: Kentucky looks not only at your country but at **your status**. Holding a Green Card can remove the road test.

WE PRINT TWO CONTRADICTIONS, BOTH FROM THE AGENCY'S OWN PAGES

- **The list of "U.S. accepted foreign country licenses" is not published.** The agency uses the phrase "U.S. accepted foreign country license" in its tables but **the list itself could not be found.** So **which row a Turkish license falls into is unclear.** **We do not say it is not on the list; the list was not found -** ask at the office.
- **The basis for driving a year on a foreign license is tied to two different things in two places.** At the top of the page it is tied to **being a party to the Geneva Convention**; in the same page's FAQ it is tied to **being on the reciprocity list.** **Turkey is on the first and not on the second.** **We take no side -** but do not rely on the ambiguity and wait: **start the 30 day clock.**

Exam languages and interpreters

The state police's own list says the written test is offered in: **Arabic, Burmese, Chinese, Dari, English, French, Kinyarwanda, Japanese, Pashto, Somali, Spanish, Swahili.** **Twelve languages and Turkish is not among them.** The driver manual translation is Spanish only. **But three doors are open:**

- The agency's sentence: **"Some locations have audio versions of the test. The test may be administered orally at locations where this service is not available."** - the test can be given in **audio** form or **orally.**
- The state police page carries a link reading **"Need an interpreter?"**, and licensing sources list a form called **"Interpreter Affidavit of a Foreign Country Driver License."** **That an interpreter can be used is written in the agency's own form name.**
- For a deaf applicant the agency says to call the testing location and request a **sign language interpreter.**

One limit stated honestly: whether an interpreter can be used **during the written test** or only **for the office transaction** does not come out of the agency's pages. The form's name points to the office transaction. **This is not an inference, it is a gap -** ask the city's office directly when you book.

Renewal and commercial licenses

- The agency's sentence: the document can be renewed **"in person at any Driver Licensing Regional office"** and a **vision screening** is required at renewal. **A non-citizen brings all status documents again at renewal.**
- **Whether online renewal is open to non-citizens is not stated on the agency's page** - the in-person route is the only one written explicitly; the scope of the online route **could not be verified.**
- **A commercial license note about E-2:** the list the agency published as of 2026 narrows which non-citizen statuses can hold a commercial learner permit or commercial license. The list names **H-2A, H-2B, the E-2 treaty investor visa** and certain Pacific island countries; **statuses such as H-1B, F-1 and L-1 are not on it.**

Why a license is extra urgent in this city

Because **there is no fixed route bus service here.** The area's public transportation is a **dial-a-ride shared vehicle service** that requires booking **by noon on the previous business day**; long trips require booking at **least five days ahead** and carry a **wait time charge.** **So every week without a license is a real loss here.**

There is a second reason: **a Kentucky ID card matches the water district's accepted identification list exactly** - moving this transaction forward pays off directly on the utility side.

- 1 Talk to your attorney first.** Which card you get with which document depends on your status, and every decision touching your status can affect your immigration file.
- 2 Get your notarized translations done in advance:** this is written as a requirement for a Turkish license, birth certificate and marriage certificate. Have your lease and electric membership form notarized at the same visit.
- 3 Book the appointment** - the city's own office is at **916 N Mulberry St**, weekdays **8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** If the wait is long, look at another office, but **ask which zone the time is given in.**
- 4 Bring originals.** Photocopies are not accepted.
- 5 If you are not a citizen, accept two things up front:** the card will be tied to the term of your immigration document and you will be issued **only a standard card.**
- 6 If you arrived on a Turkish license, plan the testing set in your first week:** learner permit, then written, then road. **With a Green Card you may be exempt from the road test** - confirm that distinction at the office.
- 7 If your status changes, apply within ten days.** Put it on your calendar today.
- 8 Consider the ID card as well:** a state ID is on the water district's accepted identification list.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN ELIZABETHTOWN

Have a question about your immigration status?

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