

CHECKLIST • FEDERAL WAY

Moving to Federal Way Checklist: The First 90 Days

What newcomers need to do, in order, with deadlines and where to do it. Print it and tick it off.

SHORT ANSWER

If you are subject to address reporting, tell USCIS your new address within 10 days. In the first week, open electricity and gas with one call to Puget Sound Energy (1-888-225-5773). **Water and sewer do not come from the city:** at most addresses Lakehaven Water and Sewer District bills you, and the account is never opened in a tenant's name. Garbage comes from Waste Management (253-833-3333). Enroll your children with Federal Way Public Schools. Within 30 days get your license, then register the car.

First 10 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Report your new address to USCIS (AR-11)	As a general rule, most people who are not U.S. citizens, including green card holders, must. A and G visa holders and Visa Waiver visitors are outside it. A move within Federal Way counts too. uscis.gov/addresschange
☐ If you have an immigration court case, file EOIR-33	Within 5 days: respondentaccess.eoir.justice.gov
☐ If you have an ICE reporting obligation	Update your address through portal.ice.gov as well, within 5 business days of the move
☐ Post office change of address	A USPS change does not update your USCIS record. They are two separate steps

THREE BILLS, THREE DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS

The commonest newcomer mistake is expecting every bill to come from the city. Federal Way does not work that way: the city runs only surface water management itself, and its own page says it is not connected to the water districts serving addresses inside city limits and tells you to **look at your water and sewer bill**.

SERVICE	WHO PROVIDES IT	PHONE
Electricity and gas	Puget Sound Energy (PSE)	1-888-225-5773
Water and sewer	At most addresses, Lakehaven Water and Sewer District	253-941-1516
Garbage, recycling, yard waste	Waste Management	253-833-3333

The city page also names Tacoma Water (253-502-8600); an older brochure adds Highline Water District (206-824-0375) and Midway Sewer District (206-824-4960). No list of which street belongs to which utility is published, so when you move in, ask the landlord for a copy of the last bill.

First week

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Electricity and gas	Both come from Puget Sound Energy: pse.com or 1-888-225-5773, weekdays 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. It takes about 15 minutes. For identification PSE accepts one of a driver license or passport number, military ID, tax identification number, SSN or date of birth, so an SSN is only one of the options . As a tenant you can hold the account in your own name, which starts your U.S. credit history
☐ Water and sewer	See the box above. Lakehaven: 31627A 1st Ave S (mail to PO Box 4249, Federal Way WA 98063), 253-941-1516, customer service weekdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month. Water breaks 253-405-6667, sewer problems 253-405-6668. Lakehaven never puts a tenant's name on the bill ; the account stays in the name of the owner on the deed
☐ Garbage	In a single-family home, new customers call Waste Management directly: 253-833-3333. In apartments and condos the building management arranges it. There is one free extra pickup a year, up to 3 bulky items and about 15 bags, booked on the same number
☐ Enroll your children in school	Federal Way Public Schools, online through ParentVUE. No SSN is asked. Enrollment team grades@fwps.org , 253-945-2100; Educational Service Center 33330 8th Avenue S, 253-945-2000
☐ Save the city numbers	Federal Way has no 311 line. Its equivalent is Eyes on Federal Way, a web and phone app for potholes, graffiti, roadside litter and abandoned shopping carts. By phone: City Hall 253-835-7000 (33325 8th Avenue South), Public Works 253-835-2700 (weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.), police non-emergency 253-835-6700. In a life-threatening emergency call 911
☐ Library card	King County Library System has two branches here: Federal Way, 34200 1st Way S, 253-838-3668 (open Sundays) and Federal Way 320th, 848 S 320th Street, 253-839-0257 (closed Sundays). A photo ID showing your date of birth (even expired, including a passport or Matricula Consular) plus one proof of address is enough, and no SSN is asked

Garbage rates (monthly, from January 1, 2026)

CART	MONTHLY
Garbage, 35 gallon, monthly pickup	\$13.85
Garbage, 20 gallon inner can, weekly	\$21.19
Garbage, 35 gallon, weekly	\$28.27
Garbage, 64 gallon, weekly	\$42.35
Garbage, 96 gallon, weekly	\$62.59
Extra 32 gallon bag	\$8.00
Recycling	Included (a \$1.94 credit is applied)
Yard and food waste cart, 35 / 64 / 96 gallon	\$13.43 / \$14.08 / \$14.77

Rates are updated every January 1. For a missed pickup call 253-833-3333 again; the city's Environmental Services unit is on 253-835-2770.

When renting

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Federal Way's own rule: just cause	The city's eviction rule came from the voters, not the council: citizen initiative 19-001 was voted on in November 2019 and took effect on November 26, 2019. Today chapter 20.05 of the Federal Way Revised Code bars eviction without just cause. Federal Way has no rent-fee cap and no first-in-time rule of the kind Seattle has
☐ Deposit	The state sets no cap on the amount, but a written lease and a signed move-in checklist are required; the refund comes within 30 days after you move out, with a written statement itemizing every deduction
☐ Rent increase	No increase in the first 12 months, then once every 12 months the cap is 7% plus Seattle-area inflation or 10%, whichever is lower. The published cap is 9.683% for 2026; for 2027 the calculation came out at 11.53%, so the 10% ceiling applies. Notice must be in writing at least 90 days ahead. The rule runs to July 1, 2040 and RCW 59.18.710 leaves some buildings out
☐ Who enforces the cap	Tenants and the state Attorney General. The Attorney General can fine up to \$7,500 per violation, and a tenant may claim up to 3 months of unlawful rent plus legal costs
☐ Get the utilities into the lease	The water, sewer and garbage accounts are not opened in your name. The landlord recovers those three either in the rent or as a separate charge, so make sure the lease says in writing how they are calculated
☐ Emergency rent and utility help	The city's resource page names organizations such as the Federal Way Community Caregiving Network and St. Theresa's Emergency Services (206-767-6449). The city does not deliver services itself, it funds these groups, so ask whether their budget is open before you go

Within 30 days: license and car

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Washington driver's license	Book an appointment: 1617 S 324th St, 253-661-5001. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. , closed at weekends. No SSN needed, and a Turkish license is not exchanged
☐ Vehicle registration	After the license, walk-in only: Federal Way Licensing Services, 1320 S 324th St, Suite A2, 253-874-8375, weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Saturdays. Both offices are on the same street
☐ Insurance	Minimum \$25,000 / \$50,000 bodily injury and \$10,000 property damage
☐ Good To Go! account	Free. Without one, every toll costs \$2 more. On the Tacoma Narrows bridge it is \$4.50 with a pass and \$6.50 by mail
☐ Emissions test	None. The program ended on January 1, 2020

60 to 90 days and beyond

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Health coverage	The nearest emergency department is St. Francis Hospital, 34515 9th Avenue South, on the first floor and open 24 hours. Ask for charity care before you pay a bill: at the larger hospital systems care is free up to 300% of the federal poverty level, 75% off from 301 to 350% and 50% off from 351 to 400%. Questions and complaints to CharityCare@doh.wa.gov, 360-236-4210. Healthplanfinder 1-855-923-4633, CHAP 1-800-756-5437
☐ Utility tax rebate	The city's Utility Tax Rebate returns part of the utility tax to low-income households: gas \$20, electricity \$25, water \$15, sewer \$15, garbage \$15, phone, mobile and cable \$10. The bills have to be in your name. Finance Department, City Hall 2nd floor, 253-835-2506
☐ Turkish consular services	There is no Turkish consulate in Washington State. The Consulate General of Türkiye in Los Angeles serves you; book at konsolosluk.gov.tr. Passports are issued in person only. Put your passport expiry date in your calendar now
☐ Taxes	Neither the state nor the city taxes wage income. Sales tax in Federal Way is 10.40% in the last quarter of 2026. King County bills property tax, due April 30 and October 31, line 206-296-3920
☐ SSN	There is no public Social Security office in Federal Way. The nearest are Kent (321 Ramsay Way, Suite 401) and Tacoma (2608 S 47th St). See the official offices directory for the detail
☐ No SSN but you must file	Apply for an ITIN with Form W-7. The nearest IRS office is not Seattle but Tacoma : 1301 A Street, Room 530. Appointment required, 844-545-5640
☐ A baby was born	A certified birth certificate comes from King County Vital Records: 201 S. Jackson St., Suite 220, Seattle, 206-837-0719. There is no counter in south King County. A certified copy is \$25, the kiosk \$28.50. Order at least two

IF YOU ARE NOT A CITIZEN, REMEMBER

- Do not register to vote. You will be offered registration at the DOL appointment; decline. Registering or voting as a noncitizen is a federal crime.
- Before you apply for SNAP, Apple Health or any other public benefit, talk to an immigration attorney.
- Check your I-94 record at i94.cbp.dhs.gov.
- If your green card application is pending, do not travel abroad without advance parole.

Information as of October 1, 2026. See the matching sections of the Federal Way page for detail.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN FEDERAL WAY

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Federal Way and the surrounding area, in Turkish and English.

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