

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · FORT LAUDERDALE

How to Get a Driver's License in Fort Lauderdale, FL: 2026 Guide (FLHSMV, Broward County)

For Fort Lauderdale newcomers and drivers arriving with a Turkish license: documents, exams, fees and the driver license offices in Broward.

SHORT ANSWER

New Florida residents must get a Florida driver's license within 30 days of establishing residency. Since February 6, 2026, every knowledge and road exam is given in English only, with no interpreters. Florida waives testing only for a few countries' licenses and Türkiye is not one of them, so you must pass both exams. A first license costs \$48. There is no driver license office inside the city of Fort Lauderdale; for now Broward license services are handled at state FLHSMV centers, the nearest being Lauderdale Lakes and Sunrise. The Broward County Tax Collector has said it will take over license services, but its website still says "coming soon," so confirm before you go.

Florida's driver's license: the 30-day rule

- **How residency is established.** Starting a job in Florida, enrolling your child in a Florida public school, registering to vote, filing for a homestead exemption, or living in Florida more than 6 consecutive months all establish residency. Only U.S. citizens may register to vote, so if you are not a citizen, do not register on any form.
- **30 days.** Once residency is established, you have 30 days to get a Florida driver's license before driving on Florida roads.
- **Apply in person.** License and ID card applications are made in person at an office offering driver-license services; a vision test is given. There is no online application for a first license.

Since February 6, 2026: exams are English only

In a January 30, 2026 announcement, FLHSMV said that starting Friday, February 6, 2026, every driver's license knowledge (written) AND road (skills) exam, for every license class, is given exclusively in English, including exams administered orally. There are no interpreters and no printed exams in any other language. If your English is limited, study traffic terms and road signs beforehand.

Arriving with a Turkish license

Florida waives testing for licenses from other U.S. states and a small number of countries; Türkiye is not one of them. A Turkish license is not converted to a Florida license, so once you are a Florida resident you take both the written and the road exam. Rental companies may ask for an International Driving Permit along with your Turkish license; ask before you book.

NOTE FOR IMMIGRANTS

- You must show proof of lawful presence: an I-551 for green card holders, or a foreign passport with a valid visa and I-94 record (plus an I-20 for F-1 or DS-2019 for J-1), or an EAD.
- If you have an SSN, the name on your application must match Social Security Administration records; if you do not have one, a separate path applies depending on your eligibility.
- Visa holders receive a 60-day temporary paper license without a photo on the first application; the license arrives by mail after status verification and is valid for the length of your USCIS document, up to one year.
- Original or certified documents are required, so gather them before you apply.

Fees (2026)

ITEM	FEE
Class E license (initial, includes learner's permit)	\$48
Commercial license (Class A)	\$75
License endorsement	\$7 each
ID Card	\$25

Many Florida counties add a county service fee on top of these amounts; that may change once the Tax Collector takes over license services in Broward. For now, ask for the total when you call the FLHSMV Broward line at (954) 497-1570 before you go.

FLHSMV driver license centers in Broward

In Broward County, license, ID card and exam services are currently handled by state FLHSMV centers. The FLHSMV office in the city of Fort Lauderdale (1113 N. Federal Hwy) handles vehicle transactions only, not licenses. The centers closest to downtown are Lauderdale Lakes and Sunrise.

CENTER	ADDRESS
Lauderdale Lakes (closest to downtown)	3718-3 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33311
Sunrise	3511 N. Pine Island Road, Sunrise, FL 33351
Margate	1135 Banks Road, Margate, FL 33063

CENTER	ADDRESS
Pembroke Pines	8001 Pembroke Road, Pembroke Pines, FL 33025
Pompano Citi Centre (Pompano Beach)	1955 Federal Hwy, Unit J209, Pompano Beach, FL 33062

Shared phone (954) 497-1570. According to the FLHSMV page, hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Appointments are booked through FLHSMV (flhsmv.gov); the Tax Collector's own release says appointments are still hard to get, so look early.

A CHANGE IS COMING: THE BROWARD TAX COLLECTOR

Broward County has had its own elected Tax Collector's office since 2025 (browardtax.org). It announced it would take over local driver-license services in summer 2026; as of September 29, 2026 its homepage still says "coming soon." The handover could happen any week and the list of centers may change. Check both browardtax.org and flhsmv.gov/locations/broward before you go.

The road (driving-skills) test

- The FLHSMV Broward page lists the license centers as offering both written and skills exams; we could not confirm which center gives the road test on which days and hours.
- Confirm where and when the road test is given when you book the appointment or call the center.
- Bring your learner's permit (if applicable), proof of insurance, and vehicle registration.

Common mistakes

- Counting the 30-day window from your move-in date rather than from when residency was actually established (job start, school enrollment, and so on).
- Assuming a Turkish license has reciprocity and skipping the exams.
- Going to the 1113 N. Federal Hwy office in Fort Lauderdale for a license; it handles vehicle transactions only.
- Showing up without an appointment and being turned away; license appointments are hard to find.
- Showing up without exam preparation; there are no interpreters in any language.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN FORT LAUDERDALE

Have a question about your immigration status?

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

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