

CHECKLIST • FORT LAUDERDALE

Moving to Fort Lauderdale, FL Checklist: The First 90 Days

What newcomers should do, in order, with deadlines and where to do it. Print it and check items off.

SHORT ANSWER

If you are subject to the address-reporting requirement, report your new address to USCIS within 10 days. In the first week, open electric service with FPL (a driver's license or passport number is accepted instead of an SSN). In the city of Fort Lauderdale, only the property owner can open a new water, sewer and trash account since March 1, 2026, so if you rent, ask your landlord. Enroll your children with Broward County Public Schools. You have 30 days for a Florida driver's license, and 10 days for vehicle registration once you start a job or enroll a child in school. If you own your home, the homestead deadline is March 1, 2027, and hurricane season runs through November 30.

First 10 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Report your address to USCIS (AR-11)	As a general rule, required for most noncitizens, including green card holders; A and G visa holders and Visa Waiver visitors are exempt. uscis.gov/addresschange
☐ In immigration court? File EOIR-33	Within 5 days: respondentaccess.eoir.justice.gov
☐ ICE check-in obligations?	Update ICE too at portal.ice.gov
☐ Change your address with USPS	Separate from USCIS; one does not update the other.
☐ Started a job or enrolled a child in school?	Your 10-day window for vehicle registration has started, see below.

First week

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Electricity (FPL)	Florida Power & Light serves Fort Lauderdale; start service at fpl.com . An SSN is not required: a driver's license or passport number can be used instead. FPL runs a credit check; if a deposit is required it is roughly two months of expected electric use. If your order arrives by noon, service can be connected the same day, Monday through Saturday. FPL: 1-888-988-8249.

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Water, sewer and trash bill (City of Fort Lauderdale)	Since March 1, 2026, only the property owner can open a new account in the city; tenants cannot open a new account in their own name (tenant accounts opened before that date stay as they are unless service is cut off), and the bill is issued on the owner's account "in care of" the tenant. Ask your landlord: whose name is the account in, how will you pay, is it passed through to you? Agree in writing. If you are an owner: a photo ID, an SSN, a deed or closing statement and a deposit are required; Utility Billing 954-828-5150. Owners without an SSN should call that number; the page lists no alternative.
☐ Trash and recycling	WM collects in the city: trash twice a week, recycling and yard waste once a week, bulk pickup monthly. Put carts out by 7:00 a.m. Find your day on the city's map (gis.fortlauderdale.gov/MyGovernmentServices); Neighbor Support Center 954-828-8000. Neighboring cities such as Oakland Park, Wilton Manors and Plantation have their own trash service.
☐ School enrollment	Contact your zoned school directly; use Find My School at browardschools.com . District office 754-321-0000.
☐ Library card	The Broward County Library card is free for residents, with no late fines. A photo ID (a passport or foreign driver's license works) and proof of address (lease, utility bill, bank statement) are enough. Apply at a branch.

Within 30 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Florida driver's license	Within 30 days of establishing residency. Exams are given in English only and Türkiye has no testing waiver. There is no license office inside the city of Fort Lauderdale; the nearest FLHSMV centers are Lauderdale Lakes and Sunrise, phone (954) 497-1570. flhsmv.gov/new-resident

Within 10 days (from starting a job or enrolling in school)

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Vehicle registration, title and Florida insurance	Minimum \$10,000 PIP plus \$10,000 PDL. Broward Tax Collector Motor Vehicle Services, 1800 NW 66 Ave, Suite 101, Plantation, 954-797-8733, or the license plate agent in Fort Lauderdale (1113 N. Federal Hwy, may charge extra fees). A VIN verification may be required.
☐ SunPass account (if you will use toll roads)	SunPass Mini \$4.99 or PRO \$14.95, at SunPass.com . There is no cash on the Turnpike or Sawgrass Expressway; the 95 Express lanes require a transponder.

Within 90 days and beyond

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Homestead exemption, if you own your home	For tax year 2027 the application is open through March 1, 2027 (the 2026 deadline has passed). Broward County Property Appraiser, 115 S. Andrews Ave, Room 111, Fort Lauderdale, 954-357-6830, bcpa.net . If you are not a citizen, you need proof of permanent residency, asylum or parolee status, or a U.S.-born minor child living with you, the SSNs of all owners, and a Florida driver license.
☐ Hurricane preparedness	Hurricane season runs through November 30. Look at Broward's evacuation plans: Plan A (Category 1-2) covers areas east of the Intracoastal Waterway, mobile homes and low-lying areas; Plan B (Category 3 and up) adds everything east of US 1. Check your address on the county's evacuation map at broward.org/hurricane . Register and sign up for alerts there; 35 general-population shelters are listed at schools, and only a few accept pets.
☐ Turkish citizens: consulate services	The Turkish Consulate General is in Miami, 80 SW 8th St., Suite 2700; from Fort Lauderdale you can take Brightline or Tri-Rail to MiamiCentral. Appointments at konsolosluk.gov.tr

IF YOU ARE NOT A U.S. CITIZEN

- Never check "U.S. citizen" on any form and never register to vote; only U.S. citizens may vote or serve on a jury in Florida.
- Talk to an immigration attorney before applying for SNAP, Florida KidCare or any public benefit: a new public charge rule took effect on September 18, 2026.
- Check your I-94 at i94.cbp.dhs.gov.
- With a green card application pending, do not travel abroad without advance parole.



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
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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