

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · GARY

Driver Licenses in Gary: The Chicago Side Changes Nothing

Your train may run to Chicago, but the license, the identification card, vehicle registration and compulsory insurance are Indiana business. This guide summarizes the state rule briefly and gives the space to doing the task from this city.

SHORT ANSWER

No, it changes nothing, and this is the sentence most easily misread in this guide. **The driver license, the identification card, vehicle registration, plates and compulsory insurance are Indiana business.** The state answer is blunt in one sentence: **no credential is issued without proof of lawful status, not even an identification card.** A person with temporary status receives a credential carrying a **Restriction 9**, and it **expires on the end date of their lawful stay**. We set out the statute and the document list in [the license section of our Indiana guide](#); what belongs here is doing the task from this city. **We print no fee figure and no counter address**, because the agency's own pages never opened by any route in this research.

The state side: three sentences, with the detail in the state guide

We do not repeat these three sentences here, because they work the same everywhere in the state. In summary: the statute requires **documentary proof of lawful status** for an identification card as well; a person with temporary status receives a credential carrying a restriction marking; and that credential **ends on the last day of the lawful stay**. So an error in your entry record feeds straight into your card. The document list, the tests and the fees are on the state side too.

QUESTION	THE INDIANA ANSWER
A license without proof of status	Not issued
An identification card without proof of status	Not issued. The statute requires documentary proof of lawful status for the card too
A marking on the card for temporary status	A Restriction 9 . How it actually appears on the card we could not verify
Validity with temporary status	The last day of your lawful stay
What a new application asks for	One identity document, one lawful status document, proof of your Social Security number and two Indiana residency documents
A foreign passport on its own	Not enough. An I-94 and a U.S. visa are asked for alongside it, with a DS-2019 or I-20 where relevant

QUESTION	THE INDIANA ANSWER
Fees	Not printed. The agency's fee schedule never opened and third-party sources conflict
If you arrive with another U.S. state's license	No written test, only a vision screening. That is the one waiver we could verify

Four things this city adds

- **You do not live in Illinois, you live in Indiana.** A Gary resident who works in Chicago, shops in Chicago and keeps Chicago time still collects a license at an **Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles** counter. Illinois rules, Illinois credential types and Illinois waivers do not apply here. If a neighbor across the state line told you how it works, do not apply their answer to yourself.
- **The two-residency-document rule is easy to satisfy in this city**, and that is an advantage. In Gary the bills arrive from three separate places: electricity and gas from **NIPSCO**, water from **Indiana American Water**, sewer and trash from the **Gary Sanitary District**. Three bills means three documents that can carry your name. **Open the accounts in your own name**; a bill in the landlord's name produces no residency document for you.
- **Check the appointment time twice.** Gary is on **Central time**, most of the state is on **Eastern time**, and the gap is an hour. When you call a state office at the capital or book through a statewide call center, ask which zone the time on the screen is written in. **That is the quietest way to miss an appointment from here.**
- **We print no counter address, and we say why.** The state licensing agency's own site never opened by any route in this research; we **could not verify** the branch list inside Lake County, the hours or the appointment procedure. Rather than invent an address we say this: book through the agency's own appointment system and confirm on the booking screen which location you are going to.

COMMERCIAL LICENSES FOLLOW A SEPARATE RULE, AND THAT MATTERS IN THIS AREA

- If you are thinking about driving a truck or a bus, know this from the start: the state **issues no new commercial license or commercial learner permit** to someone who is not a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident.
- A holder whose status is temporary may take **only an ordinary operator license**.
- During 2025 and 2026 a statute narrowed the scope of these credentials to particular visa categories and a large number were revoked. **We could not verify that law's effective date or its full scope**, so we print no detail.
- **In a region this dense with freight work that is a real decision point.** If you plan to work in this field, ask the agency **in writing** and keep the answer.

HOW LONG CAN YOU DRIVE ON A TURKISH LICENSE, AND IS THE TEST IN TURKISH? WE COULD NOT FIND OUT EITHER

- We could read **no official text showing that Indiana grants a test waiver** to the holder of a valid foreign license, and we could not verify any exchange arrangement with Türkiye.
- We could not establish **how many days a newcomer may drive on a Turkish license** either. Third-party guides say sixty days and cite a statutory section, **but the text of that section as we read it contains no such period.**
- **We also could not verify that the knowledge test is offered in Turkish.** The agency offers the test in several languages, sources conflict on how many, and no list we read includes Turkish. An applicant who speaks a language not on the list is reported to be able to take the test **with an interpreter.**
- **We do not say there is none; we say the research could not confirm it.** We gathered the open questions in [the foreign license section of the state guide](#).
- **A practical plan:** get an international driving permit before you leave Türkiye; in the week you arrive, call the agency and ask **in writing** about your window and any waiver; and prepare for both tests as though no waiver exists.

Can you postpone getting a license in Gary?

Here the answer is yes, and of the five settlements in this guide this is the only one where living without a car genuinely looks possible. The city has its own bus agency, the **Gary Public Transportation Corporation**, based at the **Adam Benjamin Metro Center**; the commuter train to Chicago belongs to a separate institution, the **South Shore Line**, and it has **three stations** in the city. We set out the detail in our vehicle and transit guide. One thing not to postpone: **photo identification** is asked for here not only for driving but when your car is towed, on a marriage license application and on a request for a birth certificate. The good news: on the vital records side **a foreign passport is on the primary list and is sufficient on its own**. The bad news: on a marriage license **the county's published identification list never mentions a passport**. We open that distinction up in our consulate guide.

- 1 **Open the utility accounts in your own name first.** Three separate suppliers means three documents, and two of them go straight into this application.
- 2 **Think about the life of your status document and the life of the card together.** With temporary status the credential ends on the last day of your stay; put the renewal date in your calendar now.
- 3 **Book through the agency's own system** and read the required documents off the screen; this guide gives no address and no fee.
- 4 **Ask which time zone the appointment is written in.** You are on Central time and the rest of the state is on Eastern.
- 5 **Take more than two residency documents.** We could not verify the accepted list, so extras help.
- 6 **Check your entry record.** An error on i94.cbp.dhs.gov feeds straight into your card's expiry date.
- 7 **A change of address means two separate notifications:** one to the licensing agency, and, if you are subject to reporting, one to USCIS. The second does not replace the first.
- 8 **The document for an international flight is your passport.** Whether an Indiana license is accepted at the airport we could not verify this round.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN GARY

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Gary 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.

Attorney advertising. This guide is general information only. It is not legal advice and is not a substitute for the advice of an attorney. Information compiled from official sources as of October 9, 2026; fees and procedures change, so check the official site before you act. Reading this guide does not create an attorney-client relationship. The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisements. Latest version: clinchlaw.com/city-guides/gary-immigration-attorney