

CHECKLIST · GEORGIA

# Moving to Georgia Checklist: The First 90 Days

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

## SHORT ANSWER

If you are subject to address reporting, tell USCIS your new address within the first 10 days. In the first week, put electricity in your name (your address decides the company) and pick a natural gas marketer; gas deposits are capped at \$150. Within 30 days, get your Georgia license first (an SSN or form DDS-351, documents in English), then register the car: a new resident pays 3 percent title tax instead of 7. A rental deposit is capped at two months' rent. Georgia did not expand Medicaid; Georgia Access open enrollment runs November 1, 2026 to January 15, 2027.

## First 10 days

| TASK                                                                          | WHERE / HOW                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Report your address to USCIS (AR-11)</b>          | As a general rule, most noncitizens (including Green Card holders) must report within 10 days of moving; A and G visa holders and Visa Waiver visitors are exempt. Moves within the state count too. USCIS online account: <a href="https://uscis.gov/addresschange">uscis.gov/addresschange</a> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>EOIR-33 if you have an immigration court case</b> | Within 5 days, to the court that holds your case (Atlanta has two): <a href="https://respondentaccess.eoir.justice.gov">respondentaccess.eoir.justice.gov</a>                                                                                                                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>If you have an ICE check-in requirement</b>       | Update ICE too: <a href="https://portal.ice.gov">portal.ice.gov</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Post office change of address</b>                 | A USPS change does not update USCIS; they are separate.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Lease and deposit</b>                             | Before signing, check that the deposit is no more than two months' rent. On move-in day, photograph every room and email the photos to the landlord with a date.                                                                                                                                 |

## First week

| TASK                                        | WHERE / HOW                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Electricity</b> | Electricity is not deregulated: your address decides the company and you cannot shop around (Georgia Power, an EMC cooperative or a city system). Confirm yours on the PSC territory map. Routes without an SSN are in the table below. |

| TASK                                                           | WHERE / HOW                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Choose a natural gas marketer</b>  | In Atlanta Gas Light territory you pick the marketer who sells the gas; the deposit cannot exceed \$150 under Commission rule. With no meter, use AGL's online form, which replies in two business days. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Enroll your children in school</b> | Find your district. No SSN required; Form 3231 for immunization and Form 3300 for screening (up to 90 days may be allowed). The utility bill for proof of address must be in the parent's name.          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>SSN application (if eligible)</b>  | Start online, then visit an SSA office by appointment: <a href="https://ssa.gov">ssa.gov</a> . If you hold work authorization, applying for an SSN is required.                                          |

## Within 30 days

| TASK                                                          | WHERE / HOW                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Georgia driver's license</b>      | An SSN or form DDS-351, every document in English (no translations), original immigration papers at every visit. The knowledge exam is offered in Turkish. The card is printed LIMITED-TERM. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Register the car (tag office)</b> | Title \$18, plate \$20 a year. TAVT is 3 percent for a new resident instead of 7: <b>say so at the counter.</b>                                                                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Liability insurance</b>           | At least \$25,000 / \$50,000 / \$25,000.                                                                                                                                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Peach Pass</b>                    | Free transponder, \$20 prepaid balance. Add your plate the day you get it; without a transponder it is \$25 per violation, up to a \$70 penalty and registration suspension.                 |

## 60 to 90 days and after

| TASK                                                                    | WHERE / HOW                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Health insurance through Georgia Access</b> | Open enrollment runs November 1, 2026 to January 15, 2027; enroll by December 15 for coverage from January 1. Moving to the U.S. from abroad opens a special enrollment period, so you need not wait. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Income tax</b>                              | The state return is Form 500, due with the federal return on April 15.                                                                                                                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>If you own: the homestead exemption</b>     | Apply by April 1 each year with your county Board of Assessors; Fulton asks for a valid Georgia license or ID. You have 45 days to appeal after the assessment notice.                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Emissions test</b>                          | In the 13 counties (Fulton, DeKalb, Cobb and Gwinnett among them), before you renew the registration.                                                                                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Consular services for Turkish citizens</b>  | Turkish Consulate General in Miami, appointment at <a href="https://konsolosluk.gov.tr">konsolosluk.gov.tr</a> . There is no consulate in Georgia.                                                    |

## Starting power and gas without an SSN, provider by provider

| PROVIDER                                          | WHAT IT SAYS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Georgia Power (Atlanta and most of the state)     | On the standard plan the deposit is set by your credit score and can run to twice the average monthly bill, refunded with 3 percent simple interest after 12 on-time payments. On the <b>PrePay</b> plan there is no credit check and enrollment takes "a Social Security Number (SSN) or a photo ID" plus proof of residency, with \$40 of initial funding and a \$30 account fee. PrePay: 1-877-506-3905; customer service 1-888-660-5890. |
| Marietta Power and Water                          | The clearest wording: no SSN is needed. In exchange you come to the office in person and pay the deposit; a passport from any country is accepted. Deposits: \$200 electric, \$75 water, \$275 for both. 675 North Marietta Parkway, 770-794-5150.                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Sawnee EMC (Forsyth, north Fulton, Cherokee area) | Normally asks for a full SSN; if you choose not to provide it, you must visit in person to start service and place a deposit. 770-887-2363.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Jackson EMC (northeast Georgia)                   | Asks every new member for a deposit, set by an Equifax credit check, so a newcomer with no credit file will pay one. <b>The PrePay program needs no deposit.</b> 1-855-939-3531.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Natural gas marketers (AGL territory)             | Deposit capped at \$150. Gas South says "no deposit required"; Georgia Natural Gas, SCANA Energy, Constellation, Fuel Georgia and Walton EMC Natural Gas say "based on credit information"; True Natural Gas, XOOM and Stream say "no deposit for customers with good credit". Phone numbers are on the PSC's certified marketer list.                                                                                                       |

None of the sources we read asked for an ITIN. What Georgia Power requires on its standard plan from someone with no SSN and no credit history is not written on its public pages; the route with a written rule behind it is PrePay.

### LIHEAP (ENERGY ASSISTANCE) AND THE SSN

The federal energy assistance program LIHEAP in Georgia **excludes people without lawful status**: the applicant must be a U.S. citizen or a lawfully admitted immigrant, and **Social Security numbers are requested for every member of the household**, with no ITIN alternative. You apply by appointment with your county's Community Action agency, not online. Some states let an applicant apply without an SSN; Georgia is not one of them, so know this before you make the trip.

## Renting: Georgia caps deposits, and no agency steps in

- **The deposit cap is two months' rent** (Safe at Home Act, for leases entered into or renewed on or after July 1, 2024). The deposit must be returned within **30 days** after the tenancy ends.
- **Rent control is banned** (O.C.G.A. 44-7-19): Atlanta, Fulton and DeKalb have no rent cap and cannot create one.
- **No agency intervenes.** The state's own handbook says no government agency can step into a landlord-tenant dispute; the route is court. Keep the lease, the receipts and your move-in photos.

## Income tax

Georgia has a flat state income tax: **4.99 percent for tax year 2026** (it was 5.19 percent in 2025). The standard deduction is \$15,000 single and \$30,000 married filing jointly. There is no city income tax, Atlanta included; the sales tax is high instead, 8.9 percent inside the city. If you must file but cannot get an SSN, apply for an ITIN with Form W-7.

### HEALTH: GEORGIA DID NOT EXPAND MEDICAID

- **For adults the only route is Georgia Pathways:** ages 19 to 64, income up to the federal poverty line, and 80 hours a month of work, study or volunteering. The federal approval runs through December 31, 2026; from January 1, 2027 the requirement becomes a "community engagement" requirement. Keep proof of your activities from December 2026.
- **Children and pregnant women** have Medicaid and PeachCare ([gateway.ga.gov](http://gateway.ga.gov), 1-877-427-3224). Since January 1, 2024, lawfully residing children and pregnant women are exempt from the five-year bar.
- **From October 1, 2026** federal rules cut federal Medicaid and CHIP funding for most immigrants other than green card holders (refugees, asylees and parolees, for example). Emergency Medicaid and the state option for lawfully residing children and pregnant women are untouched. Read your renewal letters carefully.
- **Visitor and student visa holders** get nothing in Georgia, not even emergency Medicaid. Do not skip travel health insurance for family coming to visit.
- In an emergency call 911: emergency departments must screen and stabilize you regardless of ability to pay. Ask the hospital for its financial assistance application.

### IF YOU ARE NOT A CITIZEN, REMEMBER

- Never tick the "U.S. citizen" box on any form and never register to vote. If voter registration is offered at DDS, decline.
- Talk to an immigration attorney before applying for SNAP, Medicaid, PeachCare, Pathways or any other public benefit: a new public charge rule has been in force since September 18, 2026.
- If a green card application is pending, do not leave the country without advance parole.



### TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN GEORGIA

#### Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients across Georgia, in Turkish and English. Free evaluation:

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