

CHECKLIST · ILLINOIS

Moving to Illinois 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 electricity and gas in your own name (ComEd and Peoples Gas accept a foreign passport) and enroll your children in school; Illinois schools may not require an SSN. Register your car within 30 days, and if you live in Chicago buy the city sticker too. Book your license appointment early: new arrivals get 90 days, a Turkish license is not exchanged and the written exam is in English.

First 10 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Report your new address to USCIS (AR-11)	As a general rule required for most non-citizens, green card holders included; A and G visa holders and Visa Waiver visitors are exempt. Online account: uscis.gov/addresschange . A move within the state counts.
☐ If you have an immigration court case, EOIR-33	Within 5 days: respondentaccess.eoir.justice.gov
☐ If you have ICE check-ins	Update your address on the ICE Portal too: portal.ice.gov
☐ Post office change of address	A USPS change does not update USCIS records. They are separate.

First week

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Electricity	ComEd in northern Illinois (Chicago and Cook County included), Ameren Illinois in the center and south. ComEd asks for two IDs; the accepted list includes a foreign passport, an ITIN and a consular ID, so an SSN is not required. Phone 800-334-7661.
☐ Gas	Peoples Gas in Chicago (866-556-6001), North Shore Gas in parts of the north suburbs, Nicor Gas in most of the rest of the north (888-642-6748). Peoples Gas names a foreign passport and a consular ID as primary ID. If you smell gas, leave the building and call 866-556-6002 or 911.

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ School enrollment	Apply to the district your address belongs to. No SSN and no questions about immigration status. Immunization and health papers are due October 15.
☐ Health coverage for children	All Kids: under 19, regardless of status. ABE.illinois.gov or 1-800-843-6154
☐ SSN application (if you are eligible)	Start online, then visit an SSA office: ssa.gov . An SSN is not required for a license, school enrollment or private health insurance.
☐ License appointment	apps.ilsos.gov/dlexamcheck . Appointments are mandatory and the calendar fills early.

Within 30 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Illinois insurance	Minimum \$25,000 / \$50,000 / \$20,000 liability. Driving uninsured costs at least \$500.
☐ Title and registration	Form VSD-190 at an SOS facility, within 30 days of moving. Title \$165 + plate \$151 = \$316; the plate then renews at \$151 a year
☐ Chicago city sticker	Anyone living in Chicago, wherever the car is registered. \$105.18 for a passenger car in 2026, within 30 days; \$60 late fee, tickets from \$200. ezbuy.chicityclerk.com
☐ Emissions test	Listed counties only, free, every two years. No annual safety inspection. illinoisairteam.net
☐ I-PASS or Pay By Plate	The Tollway has no cash lanes. Without a transponder, open Pay By Plate within 14 days and there is no fine.
☐ Work toward your license	Surrender the old license, take the vision screening and the written exam (English); with no SSN, a "Federal Limits Apply" license and proof of 12 months of residency

Within 90 days and after

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Finish your license	Before the 90-day foreign-license window closes. The IDP is not recognized and a Turkish license is not exchanged.
☐ Income tax return	Illinois taxes income at a flat 4.95 percent with a \$2,925 personal exemption for 2026. Without an SSN, apply for an ITIN with Form W-7. An ITIN filer can claim the Illinois EITC and, with a child under 12, the state Child Tax Credit.
☐ If you bought a home: property tax exemption	In Cook County, the Homeowner Exemption from the Assessor (\$10,000 off the assessed value); no SSN is asked.
☐ Consular matters for Turkish citizens	Turkish Consulate General in Chicago, appointments at konsolosluk.gov.tr (thirteen-state district)

Your rights

RENTING, UTILITIES AND SCHOOL

- **Renting:** a landlord may not reject you because you have no SSN and has to accept an ITIN as an alternative (Illinois Human Rights Act, 2024). If you are turned down, ask for the reason in writing; a complaint to IDHR is free and due within one year (Chicago 312-814-6200).
- **Deposits:** state law sets no cap. The landlord must send an itemized damage statement within 30 days of move-out, or return the full deposit within 45 days.
- **Electricity and gas:** low-income households cannot be charged a deposit. Winter shut-off protection runs December 1 to March 31.
- **School:** no SSN and no questions about status, but immunization and health papers are due by October 15.

IF YOU ARE NOT A U.S. CITIZEN

- Never tick a "U.S. citizen" box on any form and do not register to vote. If voter registration is offered at a license counter, decline. Registering or voting as a non-citizen is a federal crime and can wreck your immigration case. If a jury questionnaire arrives, do not ignore it; answer the citizenship question "no".
- Before applying for SNAP, Medicaid, All Kids or housing help, talk to an immigration attorney: the new public charge rule applies to green card applications filed on or after September 18, 2026.
- Illinois's adult immigrant Medicaid program (HBIA) ended on July 1, 2025; check your position before applying for any adult program.
- Check your I-94 record at i94.cbp.dhs.gov. Your license term and work permit may depend on it.
- If a green card application is pending, do not leave the country without advance parole.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN ILLINOIS

Have a question about your immigration status?

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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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