

STEP BY STEP GUIDE · JEFFERSONTOWN

Getting a Driver License in Jeffersontown: 2026 Guide

The city is a separate municipality, but licensing is not the city's business. There is no office here; the nearest is Hurstbourne, and you may book at any regional office in the state.

SHORT ANSWER

Three things to know up front. **First:** in Kentucky the driver license is no longer handled at the courthouse clerk. In 2022 the work moved to the state's own **Driver Licensing Regional Offices**, so the "go to the circuit court clerk" advice still circulating online is **wrong today**. **Second, and specific to this city: Jeffersontown has no driver licensing office of its own.** It is a separate municipality, but licensing is state work; the closest office is **Hurstbourne at 9112 Leesgate Rd, 40222**. That is not a problem, because the agency's own rule since July 5, 2022 lets you book **at any regional office in the Commonwealth, regardless of your county**. **Third:** the license and the car are not handled in the same place. The license is at the state office, **vehicle registration is at the County Clerk**, and the tests are run by the **Kentucky State Police**. If you arrived from Turkey, the result is **not a course but a full testing set**.

Timing: 30 days for the license, 10 to 15 days for the car

The agency's sentence is clear: once you establish residency in Kentucky you must obtain a Kentucky license **within 30 days**. **But the same page gives two different numbers for vehicle registration** and we print both: **10 days** at the top of the page and **15 days** in the insurance section of that same page. **We are not picking a side**. Practical advice: if you brought a car, go to the county clerk **in your first week** and the argument becomes moot.

No office in Jeffersontown, several in the county

The state's own office dataset shows **no regional office named Jeffersontown**. The offices in Jefferson County are all on **Eastern Time** and open **Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.:**

- **Hurstbourne** - 9112 Leesgate Rd, 40222 (*closest to Jeffersontown addresses*)
- **Bowman Field** - 3501 Roger E Schupp St, 40205
- **Dixie Highway** - 6202 Willismore Dr, 40272
- **L&N Building** - 908 W Broadway, 11th floor, 40203
- **Nia Center** - 2900 W Broadway Ste 100, 40211

Each office has its own email in the form **KYTC.DDL<OfficeName>@ky.gov**. The agency's own wording is that applicants may book driver testing **at any regional office throughout the Commonwealth, regardless of**

their county, and that you should **bring all required documentation to any Driver Licensing Regional Office**. So if the nearest office has no slots, you are free to look further.

TIME ZONE WARNING

Kentucky is split across two time zones. Jeffersontown and Jefferson County are in **Eastern Time**, while some places in the southwest of the state are in **Central Time**. Because you may book at **any office in the state**, this question carries extra weight here: pick an office to the west and **the clock changes with it**. When you book, **ask which time zone the appointment time is given in**.

Fees, from the agency's own price list

CARD	STANDARD 4 YEARS	STANDARD 8 YEARS	REAL ID 4 YEARS	REAL ID 8 YEARS
Driver license	\$21.50	\$43.00	\$24.00	\$48.00
Motorcycle license	\$21.50	\$43.00	\$24.00	\$48.00
Driver and motorcycle combined	\$26.50	\$53.00	\$29.00	\$58.00
ID card	\$11.50	\$23.00	\$14.00	\$28.00
Learner permit	\$15.00 (3 years)	\$15.00 (3 years)	\$18.00 (3 years)	\$18.00 (3 years)

Payment, in the agency's words: **credit card, debit card, cash and check** are accepted. **But the 4 versus 8 year choice may not apply to you:** for a non-citizen the term is tied not to your preference but to **your immigration document**.

The card issued to a non-citizen: the term follows your document

- **A license or ID card issued to a non-citizen expires along with the USCIS documents.**
- **People in special statuses** (asylee, refugee, parole in the public interest, K-1 applicant) receive a **4 year** card.
- If the USCIS documents were issued **indefinitely** but the person is not in a special status, the card is still **4 years**.
- A **REAL ID** is issued to a non-citizen **for a limited period** and cannot extend beyond the authorized period of stay; with no specific end date, the card may be issued for **at most one year**.

The statute is clearer and that is where to read. The relevant section of the state's law in force (its own stamp: **Effective: July 1, 2025**) says the following for an applicant who is not a U.S. citizen and has no permanent residence:

- **Only a "standard" license or permit is issued.** No REAL ID and no voluntary travel ID.
- The application goes to the **Transportation Cabinet in Frankfort or a field office**; the section **does not list the circuit court clerk**.
- Information is verified through the **SAVE (Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements)** program and federal databases.

- If identity and status are verified, a **temporary document valid for 30 days** is issued until the permanent card arrives.
- **If status changes, you must apply within 10 days** to have the card updated.
- Validity: **the term of the DHS document or 8 years, whichever is shorter**. If the document is indefinite with no end date, **1 year**.
- **A special rule for K-1 fiance visa holders:** the application must include the **original or certified copy of the marriage certificate** (signed by the officiant and two witnesses) along with the petition relating to entry for the purpose of marriage; if the names do not match, the agency is not required to issue a license.

Does the card show your status? No text for such a legend could be found on the agency's page in Kentucky and there is no sample card image; the only thing the statute says is that the card is "**standard**." A 2026 bill that would have required a citizenship or status legend on every identity document **did not become law**. **We do not state flatly that "nothing will appear on your card"**; what we write is that the research could not find the text of any legend.

Documents and two hard rules

- **Photocopies are not accepted: originals** are required.
- **A notarized translation is required:** the agency's sentence is that **foreign licenses, birth certificates and marriage certificates must carry a notarized, translated statement**. Your Turkish documents will not be processed without a translation.
- **Permanent residents** must show the current card or a photo I-551 **at every transaction**.
- **A concession for those awaiting extension:** a digital **I-797C** may be accepted, but a **printout** is needed so the office can scan it into the record.
- For a transfer from within the United States: proof of lawful presence, the **Social Security card, proof of Kentucky residence no older than one year (two for REAL ID)**, the previous state's license, and a name change document if applicable.

On proof of residence there is an advantage specific to Jeffersontown: the city sends you a **property tax bill issued in its own name** once a year, and if you own a home that is an official document carrying your name and address. If you rent, the **water bill** does the same job.

Test languages: no Turkish

The Kentucky State Police list says the written test is offered in **Arabic, Burmese, Chinese, Dari, English, French, Kinyarwanda, Japanese, Pashto, Somali, Spanish and Swahili**. **Twelve languages, and Turkish is not among them**. The driver manual is translated only into Spanish. Two doors are open in return: **an audio version of the test** exists at some sites, and where it does not, the test may be given **orally**; the licensing agency's resources also list an interpreter affidavit form, **TC 94-197 "Interpreter Affidavit of a Foreign Country Driver License"**. **Whether an interpreter may be used during the written test or only for the office transaction could not be verified**.

If you arrived on a Turkish license: not a course, a test set

Do not carry over the rule from the previous round of this series. In a neighboring state, not being on the reciprocity list meant a **mandatory driving course**. **Kentucky is different.** The licensing agency's reciprocity parenthesis names two countries - **Taiwan and South Korea** - and **Turkey is not on it**, but the consequence is not a course, it is the **full testing set**. Mandatory driver education in this state is written only for applicants **under 18**.

YOUR SITUATION	WHAT KENTUCKY REQUIRES
Turkish license + green card holder, country on the U.S. accepted list	Vision + written
Turkish license + green card holder, country not on the accepted list	Vision + written + road ; must start with a learner permit
Turkish license, no green card, country on the accepted list	Vision + written + road
Turkish license, no green card, country not on the accepted list	Written + vision + road ; must start with a learner permit
A valid license from another U.S. state	No test

TWO PRINTED CONTRADICTIONS, BOTH FROM THE AGENCY'S OWN PAGE

- **The "U.S. accepted foreign country license" list is not published.** The agency uses the phrase in its tables but publishes neither the list nor a definition, so **which row a Turkish license falls into is unclear**. Practical consequence: **be ready to take the road test** when you go to the counter.
- **What does the one year right to drive on a foreign license depend on?** At the top of the page it is tied to **being party to the Geneva Convention**, and in the FAQ on the same page to **being on the reciprocity list**. **Turkey is party to the 1949 Geneva Convention on Road Traffic but is not on Kentucky's two-country list. We take no side;** do not build a plan on that uncertainty.

Renewals and commercial licensing

For a non-citizen the agency says renewal is done **in person at any regional office** and that a **vision screening** is required; all documents for your status must be brought **again**. **Whether online renewal is open to non-citizens could not be verified.** On commercial licensing, the agency notes that the federal administration updated its rules and lists **H-2A, H-2B** and the **E-2 treaty investor** visa among those who may qualify. For a Turkish reader that means **E-2 is on the list, while H-1B, F-1 and L-1 are not**.

BEFORE YOU GO TO THE COUNTER

- **The original passport** (photocopies are not accepted) and a **notarized translation** of your Turkish documents.
- **Proof of Kentucky residence no older than one year; two** if you want a REAL ID.
- **Book at any office in the state** rather than waiting for a slot at Hurstbourne alone - but if you pick an office to the west, **ask about the time zone**.
- Go knowing that **SAVE verification** will be run at the office, and that your card's term will follow **your immigration document**.
- **On a change of status the statute gives you 10 days**. Moving and a change of status often fall in the same period; plan them together.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN JEFFERSONTOWN

Do you have a question about your immigration situation?

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