

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · KENT

How to Get a Driver's License in Kent: 2026 Guide

This guide is about Washington State on the Pacific coast, not Washington, D.C. Kent's own licensing office, its Saturday hours, applying without an SSN, the Turkish license question and the fees.

SHORT ANSWER

Licenses come from the state Department of Licensing (DOL), not the city, and Kent has its own driver licensing office: 25410 74th Ave S, 253-872-2782. It is closed on Mondays, open on Saturdays, and takes no walk-ins. You have 30 days after you move, and the license comes before vehicle registration. No SSN is required. A first license is \$111 for 6 years or \$131 for 8.

Before you start

- **A Turkish license is not exchanged.** You take both the knowledge test and the drive test. A Turkish license counts only as supporting evidence. For someone arriving from Türkiye the easiest document combination is a foreign passport carrying an I-94 together with the U.S. visa.
- **No SSN needed.** Give the number if you have one and DOL verifies it with the Social Security Administration. If you have none, you sign a declaration saying so and the transaction still goes ahead.
- **Turkish is not a test language.** The knowledge test is offered in 12 languages (English, Spanish, traditional and simplified Chinese, Korean, Russian, Vietnamese, Japanese, Arabic, Punjabi, Tagalog, Ukrainian) and the driver guide in 17; Turkish is in neither list. The answer is an interpreter: at least 5 business days ahead, email languageaccess@dol.wa.gov with your name, phone, language, office and appointment time.
- **There is no star-marked REAL ID.** Washington's federally accepted card is the Enhanced Driver License and it goes to U.S. citizens only. A green card or visa holder gets a standard license marked "Federal limits apply". Carry your passport, green card or work permit (I-766) when you fly.
- **New from November 1, 2026:** first-time Washington license applicants under 25 must complete a free online course. There is no such requirement at 25 and over.

Kent's hours are not the usual Washington hours

DAY	KENT DRIVER LICENSING OFFICE (25410 74TH AVE S)
Monday	Closed
Tuesday and Wednesday	8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday	9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday	8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

DAY	KENT DRIVER LICENSING OFFICE (25410 74TH AVE S)
Saturday	8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Sunday	Closed

Saturday opening is Kent's advantage: the Tukwila office runs weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. only. Commercial license (CDL) testing stops 90 minutes before closing. These hours come from DOL's [office locator](#) and change often, so **confirm them when you book**. DOL customer line 360-902-3900 (TTY 711).

Driver licensing offices in and around Kent

OFFICE	ADDRESS	PHONE
Kent	25410 74th Ave S, Kent WA 98032	253-872-2782
Federal Way	1617 S 324th St, Federal Way WA 98003	253-661-5001
Tukwila	200 Andover Park E, Suite 3, Tukwila WA 98188	360-902-3900
Seattle-Queen Anne	450 3rd Ave W, Suite 100, Seattle WA 98119	206-464-6845

Step by step: your first license

- 1 Book an appointment.** DOL driver licensing offices take no walk-ins. The Kent office does not register vehicles: tabs and titles are handled at the other end of town, on 72nd Ave S.
- 2 Bring original documents.** DOL refuses copies, scans and photos on a phone.
- 3 Give your SSN if you have one, or sign a declaration.**
- 4 Take the tests.** The knowledge test needs 32 correct out of 40, the drive test is passed at 80 of 100. At 18 and over, no learner permit or driving school is required. Vision screening happens at the office.
- 5 Bring a car to the drive test.** You need an insured vehicle with valid registration, tabs and plates; a rental car is allowed. Without proof of liability insurance for that vehicle you will not be tested.
- 6 Wait for the card.** The temporary paper license is good for 45 days and the permanent card arrives by mail in 7 to 10 days. If it has not come in 30 days, call 360-902-3900.

Fees (2026)

ITEM	FEE
First license	\$111 (6 years) / \$131 (8 years)
Learner permit (1 year)	\$35
License renewal	\$61 (6 years) / \$81 (8 years)
Standard ID card instead of a license	\$61 (6 years) / \$81 (8 years)

ITEM	FEE
Replacement card, or a name or address change	\$20

Offices take cash and checks, and cards at most locations, with a vendor fee. The full document lists are in our [Washington state guide](#).

NOTE FOR IMMIGRANTS

- A standard Washington license gives no immigration status, and the card does not show your residency. Keep your passport with you when you board a plane or enter a federal building.
- If your name is spelled differently across documents (Turkish letters in the passport, something else on the I-94), sort it out before the appointment. The name on the card has to match your USCIS and SSA records later.
- DOL staff will offer you voter registration during your transaction. If you are not a citizen, decline and answer the citizenship question truthfully.

Common mistakes

- Going to the Kent office on a Monday, when it is closed.
- Walking in without an appointment.
- Bringing photocopies or a photo of a document on your phone.
- Leaving the interpreter request until test day; it has to go in at least 5 business days ahead.
- Expecting to register a car at the licensing office; that happens at 22717 72nd Ave S.
- Going to register the car first. The license comes before vehicle registration.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN KENT

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Kent and the surrounding area, in Turkish and English. Free evaluation: clinchlaw.com/free-evaluation · +1 866-491-7669

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