

CHECKLIST · KENT

Moving to Kent Checklist: The First 90 Days

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

SHORT ANSWER

If you are subject to address reporting, tell USCIS your new address within 10 days. In the first week, open electricity and gas with one call to Puget Sound Energy (1-888-225-5773) and **find out which utility bills water at your address**, because in Kent that varies street by street. Enroll your children online with Kent School District. Within 30 days get your Washington license, then register the car: the license comes before vehicle registration.

First 10 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Report your new address to USCIS (AR-11)	As a general rule, most people who are not U.S. citizens, including green card holders, must. A and G visa holders and Visa Waiver visitors are outside it. A move within Kent counts too. uscis.gov/addresschange
☐ If you have an immigration court case, file EOIR-33	Within 5 days: respondentaccess.eoir.justice.gov
☐ If you have an ICE reporting obligation	Update your address through portal.ice.gov as well, within 5 business days of the move
☐ Post office change of address	A USPS change does not update your USCIS record. They are two separate steps

KENT'S LOCAL TRAP: WHO SUPPLIES YOUR WATER?

In Kent water does not come from one utility. The City of Kent serves many addresses but says on its own page that not all properties are served by the city; inside the same city, **Highline Water District, Soos Creek Water and Sewer District and Water District 111** bill others. Which one covers you depends on the street, and each runs its own account system. The quickest route is to ask your landlord or the building manager; if you are not sure, call city Customer Service at 253-856-5201 and give your address. Calling the wrong utility costs you days in your moving week.

UTILITY	PHONE
City of Kent (water, sewer, storm drainage)	253-856-5201
Highline Water District	206-824-0375
Soos Creek Water and Sewer District	253-630-9900
Water District 111	253-631-3770

First week

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Electricity and gas	Both come from Puget Sound Energy, so it is one application: pse.com or 1-888-225-5773 (weekdays 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.). For identification PSE accepts one of a driver license or passport number, military ID, tax identification number, SSN or date of birth, so an SSN is only one of the options
☐ Avoid the deposit	Three ways: switch to automatic payment, bring a letter of regular payment from your previous electric or gas company (at least 1 year of service in the past 24 months, no more than two late notices), or name a PSE customer in good standing as guarantor. If a deposit is taken it goes on the first bill and comes back with interest after 12 months of regular payment
☐ Water, sewer and storm drainage	See the box above. For a city account call Customer Service at 253-856-5201 or write to customerservice@kentwa.gov . A tenant can hold the bill in their own name as long as the owner sends an authorization form, so ask for it when you sign the lease
☐ Garbage	Mandatory. Kent City Code 7.03 requires every occupied building to have garbage service. The service comes from Republic Services, not the city: 206-682-9735 for homes (weekdays 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.), 253-872-7220 for businesses. The blue recycling cart and the green food and yard waste cart come at no extra charge
☐ Enroll your children in school	Kent School District, online. No SSN is asked. District office 12033 SE 256th St, 253-373-7000, enrollment@kent.k12.wa.us
☐ Save the city numbers	Kent has no 311 line. For non-emergency issues use the free KentWorks app or call 253-856-5200. Report utility emergencies by phone, not through the app: Public Works Operations 253-856-5600, after hours the police switchboard 253-856-5800. In a life-threatening emergency call 911

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Library card	Kent belongs to King County Library System, not Seattle Public Library. A photo ID showing your date of birth (even expired, including a passport or Matricula Consular) plus one proof of address is enough, and no SSN is asked. Kent Library (212 2nd Ave N) is closed for renovation; Kent Panther Lake (20500 108th Ave SE, 253-854-0211) is open seven days a week

When renting

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Deposit	Neither Kent nor Washington caps the deposit. Seattle's one-month cap does not apply in Kent. A deposit may be taken only if the lease is in writing and you were given a signed, dated move-in checklist; without that checklist the landlord is liable for the whole deposit
☐ Installment right	RCW 59.18.610: on written request you may pay the deposit, non-refundable fees and last month's rent in 3 equal installments on leases of 3 months or more. A holding fee cannot exceed 25% of the first month's rent
☐ Refund	Within 30 days after you move out, with a written statement itemizing every deduction. Nothing may be deducted for ordinary wear and tear
☐ Rent increase	No increase in the first 12 months; after that the state cap applies once every 12 months, 9.683% for 2026 and 10% for 2027. Notice must be in writing at least 90 days ahead (Seattle's 180 days does not apply in Kent). The city does not enforce the cap; the state Attorney General does
☐ Eviction	A landlord may not end a tenancy except for the reasons listed in RCW 59.18.650. Nonpayment brings a 14-day notice, a material lease breach 10 days, serious damage or illegal activity 3 days. Seattle's right to a free attorney does not exist in Kent; the CLEAR line is 1-888-201-1014
☐ Building inspection	Kent's one local rule: rentals with two or more units are inspected every three years and landlords register with the city by November 1 each year. Ask whether a building is registered while you are still looking. Complaints go to Code Enforcement at 253-856-5909

Within 30 days: license and car

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Washington driver's license	Appointment required: Kent driver licensing office, 25410 74th Ave S, 253-872-2782. Closed Mondays, open Saturdays 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. No SSN needed, and a Turkish license is not exchanged
☐ Vehicle registration	After the license, walk-in only: Kent Licensing Agency, 22717 72nd Ave S, Suite B-108, 253-852-3110, weekdays 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Kent charges no \$50 city fee
☐ Insurance	Minimum \$25,000 / \$50,000 bodily injury and \$10,000 property damage
☐ Good To Go! account	Free. Without one, every toll costs \$2 more. If you commute on SR 167, the \$15 Flex pass makes the express lane free with two people aboard
☐ Emissions test	None. The program ended on January 1, 2020

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ ORCA card	A new adult card is \$3. Ticket machines are at Kent Station (301 Railroad Ave N) and Kent Des Moines (23525 30th Ave S). For ORCA LIFT go to the Kent Public Health Center, 25742 104th Ave SE, 206-477-6950

60 to 90 days and beyond

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Health coverage	There is no hospital emergency department inside Kent city limits. The nearest are Valley Medical Center (400 South 43rd St, Renton, 425-690-1000), MultiCare Auburn Medical Center (202 N Division St, Auburn, 253-833-7711) and St. Francis Hospital (34515 9th Avenue South, Federal Way, 253-944-8100). Ask for charity care before you pay a bill. Healthplanfinder 1-855-923-4633
☐ Turkish consular services	There is no consulate in Kent and none in Seattle. The Consulate General of Türkiye in Los Angeles serves you; book at konsolosluk.gov.tr . Passports are issued in person only. Put your passport expiry date in your calendar now
☐ Taxes	Washington does not tax wage income and neither does Kent. Sales tax in Kent is 10.40% in the last quarter of 2026. King County bills property tax, due April 30 and October 31, line 206-263-2890
☐ SSN	Kent has its own SSA office: 321 Ramsay Way, Suite 401, (866) 931-7671, weekdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Your ZIP code decides which office serves you, so confirm at ssa.gov/locator
☐ No SSN but you must file	Apply for an ITIN with Form W-7. There is no IRS office in Kent; Seattle (915 Second Ave, 32nd floor) and Tacoma (1301 A Street, Room 530) are about equally far. Appointments on 844-545-5640
☐ A baby was born	A certified birth certificate comes from King County Vital Statistics: 201 S. Jackson St., Suite 220, Seattle, 206-837-0719. A certified copy is \$25, or \$28.50 from the kiosk in the same building. Order at least two

IF YOU ARE NOT A CITIZEN, REMEMBER

- Do not register to vote. You will be offered registration at the DOL appointment; decline. Registering or voting as a noncitizen is a federal crime.
- Before you apply for SNAP, Apple Health or any other public benefit, talk to an immigration attorney.
- Check your I-94 record at i94.cbp.dhs.gov.
- If your green card application is pending, do not travel abroad without advance parole.

Information as of October 1, 2026. See the matching sections of the Kent page for detail.



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

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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