

CHECKLIST · LOS ANGELES

Moving to Los Angeles 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. Once you are a California resident, your previous license is good for only 10 days, so look for a DMV appointment right away. Pay your car's California registration fees to the DMV within 20 days; that step includes California insurance and a smog check if required. In Los Angeles, LADWP handles electricity and water, and LA Sanitation and MyLA311 handle trash and recycling.

First 10 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Report your address to USCIS (AR-11)	As a general rule, required for most noncitizens, including green card holders; A and G visa holders and Visa Waiver visitors are exempt. uscis.gov/addresschange
☐ Book a DMV appointment for your California license	You have only 10 days from establishing residency (California Vehicle Code section 12505). dmv.ca.gov/office_locator
☐ In immigration court? File EOIR-33	Within 5 days: respondentaccess.eoir.justice.gov
☐ ICE check-in obligations?	Update ICE too: portal.ice.gov
☐ Change your address with USPS	Separate from USCIS; one does not update the other.

First week

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Electricity and water (inside the City of Los Angeles)	LADWP handles both from one department: 1-800-DIAL-DWP (1-800-342-5397), Mon-Fri 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat 7 a.m.-2 p.m. ladwp.com
☐ Electricity and gas (outside LADWP territory)	Southern California Edison (electric) and SoCalGas (natural gas); ask each provider directly about start-of-service requirements.
☐ Trash, recycling and organics	LA Sanitation: black (trash), blue (recycling) and green (organics) bins; set out before 6 a.m. on collection day, bring bins in by 8 p.m. 24-hour customer care: 1-800-773-2489.

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Bulky item pickup	Free, scheduled through MyLA311: myla311.lacity.gov or 311.
☐ School enrollment	LAUSD One Enrollment · Parent Hotline (213) 443-1300
☐ SSN application (if eligible)	Start online, then visit an SSA office: ssa.gov

Within 20 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ California car insurance	At least \$30,000/\$60,000/\$15,000.
☐ Smog check	Required for most gasoline vehicles; the certificate is valid 90 days after testing.
☐ Vehicle registration	DMV, Form REG 343, your previous state's title or registration, and a REG 31 Verification of Vehicle.
☐ Metro ExpressLanes account (if you drive the I-10 or I-110)	metroexpresslanes.net

Within 90 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Homeowners' exemption (if you bought a home)	The Homeowners' Exemption takes \$7,000 off your home's taxable value; check the claim form and deadline with the LA County Assessor .
☐ Renting? Check rent stabilization coverage	If your building was built on or before October 1, 1978, the Los Angeles Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO) may apply; check at housing.lacity.gov .
☐ Library card	Los Angeles Public Library, free to any California resident with ID and proof of address, in person.
☐ Turkish citizens: consulate services	Turkish Consulate General in Los Angeles (Beverly Hills); appointments at konsolosluk.gov.tr

IF YOU ARE NOT A U.S. CITIZEN

- Never check "U.S. citizen" on any form, and never register to vote.
- Since January 1, 2026, adults 19 and older without a satisfactory immigration status can no longer newly enroll in full-scope Medi-Cal; new applicants in that group get restricted-scope coverage (emergency and pregnancy care only). Children and pregnant people are not affected.
- Since April 1, 2026, refugees, asylees, parolees and some other groups can no longer get federal CalFresh (food assistance); most green card holders remain eligible.
- Talk to an immigration attorney before applying for Medi-Cal, CalFresh or any public benefit: a new public charge rule has been in effect since September 18, 2026.
- Check your I-94 at i94.cbp.dhs.gov. Your license term and work authorization depend on it.
- With a green card application pending, do not travel abroad without advance parole.



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Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Los Angeles and the surrounding area, in Turkish and English.

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