

CHECKLIST · LOUISIANA

Moving to Louisiana Checklist: The First 90 Days (2026)

Week one, the first month, after day thirty, and what to close before day ninety. Five habits brought from another state or from Turkey break here.

SHORT ANSWER

This list opens with five warnings, because each one breaks a habit brought from somewhere else. First: **if you arrived from Turkey your license is not transferred, it is earned from scratch**; the 30-day transfer window applies **only to arrivals from another U.S. state**. Second: **the city name on your mail does not show which government you belong to**, and the trap runs in both directions. Third: **a driver who cannot show proof of insurance has the plate seized**; policy first, plate second. Fourth: **natural gas changed hands in 2025**, and in the two largest cities going to the former company sends you to the wrong counter. Fifth: **if you are married you have a one-year window**; during that year a matrimonial agreement can be made **without court approval**.

Deadlines in one table

TASK	DEADLINE	WHERE
Federal address report	10 days. It applies to moves inside the state too	Through the immigration agency's own channel; enter the receipt number of every pending case
License address	10 days	The agency's answer: You must appear in person. \$13.00 on a four-year card, \$17.00 on a six-year card
Registration address	10 days	A separate transaction. Old certificates for all vehicles are brought in; the corrected registration is free
License transfer	30 days , only for arrivals from another U.S. state	The old state license is surrendered and destroyed
License if you came from Turkey	Not a day count; the course schedule sets it	Temporary instructional permit, then 6 classroom hours and 8 behind-the-wheel hours
Title after buying a vehicle	Five days	Motor vehicle office or authorized tag agent
Flood policy	30-day wait before it takes effect	Renters can buy one too; buying after a storm is named does not help
Marriage license waiting period	24 hours. The 72-hour figure in circulation is wrong	In Orleans Parish the clerk of court does not issue it , the state vital records registry does; in the other four it is the parish clerk of court

TASK	DEADLINE	WHERE
Matrimonial agreement window	One year after establishing domicile	During that year the agreement can be made without court approval

Two rows of this table mislead readers often. First: **a change of address at the post office does not satisfy the federal report**, and no address you give at a license counter or a school office takes its place. Second: **changing the address on your license does not change the registration address on your vehicles**; these are two separate transactions and both carry a 10-day deadline.

Week one

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ File the federal address report within 10 days	Update the address on any pending case separately. Moves inside the state require a report too
☐ Find out which government your address falls under	In this state the administrative unit is not a county but a parish, and the name of the governing body is not uniform. The trap runs both ways: a home whose mail says a city name can sit in unincorporated parish territory, or inside a separate municipality within the same parish
☐ Use the official address lookup tool	The New Orleans tool is called Where Y'At . Baton Rouge has three separate tools: property lookup, sales tax domicile lookup and council district lookup
☐ Register for hurricane alerts	The season runs June 1 through November 30 . One registration in New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Metairie; two separate systems in Mandeville and Lake Charles . The multilingual phone door is 2-1-1
☐ Open the electricity account	The regulator changes with your address: in New Orleans it is the city council , elsewhere the state commission. That is why a billing complaint goes to a different door
☐ Do not look for gas at the former company	The former company's own sentence says it completed the sale of the natural gas distribution business serving the two largest cities; the buyer is Delta Utilities . In Mandeville electricity is with a different company again
☐ Ask the right question about water service	It changes by community: Lake Charles explicitly requires a Social Security card , the New Orleans utility lists the number and takes applications in person , and the Mandeville page does not mention it at all . No alternative route without a number could be found; we do not say none exists
☐ If you came from Turkey, enroll in a driving school	First the temporary instructional permit , then the course. Course schedules can run for months and this is the longest item of the first month

The first month

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Finish the Social Security number	The number is collected on every license in this state. If you are not eligible, a letter from the Social Security Administration is required
☐ Register the vehicle	Policy first, plate second. A deadline for new residents could not be found , but do not wait
☐ Keep proof of insurance in the vehicle	A driver stopped without it has the plate seized ; you have three business days to deliver proof, after which the plate is destroyed
☐ Enroll the children in school	In New Orleans the system is centralized and named NCAP , at enrollnolaps.com ; in the other four the address assigns the school
☐ Apply for health coverage	The state expanded coverage. The five-year waiting period is removed for children and not removed for pregnant women. Sliding fee clinics are not free
☐ Look for one clause before you sign a lease	The waiver of notice to vacate. The code of procedure requires a five-day written notice, but a lessee may waive that right by a written waiver contained in the lease. If the clause is there, the five days go to zero
☐ Check three more things in the lease	With no stated term a residential lease is month to month by law; if no notice is given within a week of the term ending, the lease continues on the same conditions ; notice to leave a month-to-month lease is due 10 calendar days before the end of the month and must be in writing for a residence
☐ Note the deposit rule	Return within one month ; if anything is withheld, an itemized statement within the same month. The lessee must leave a written forwarding address when the lease ends. If the tenant leaves early or without notice, the one-month rule does not apply. No cap could be found

After day thirty

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ If you are married, use the one-year window	During the first year after establishing domicile a matrimonial agreement can be made without court approval ; after that it takes a joint petition and a court judgment. The default regime is community of acquets and gains and the law applies it regardless of where you married
☐ If you buy a home, keep the order	Act of sale, then the electricity account , then the property tax exemption. The exemption requires an electric bill and does not accept a water utility bill , and the identification must be a Louisiana license or state identification card
☐ Buy the flood policy early	The city's own sentence: standard homeowner policies do not cover flood losses, renters can buy policies too , and there is a 30 day wait for a flood policy to take effect

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Make your evacuation plan	The order is normally issued by the parish president , and by the governor only if the parish president has not. In a mandatory evacuation a 24-hour curfew takes effect automatically and return is by permission . The state's phased timetable: 50, 40 and 30 hours
☐ If you have no car, know your option	A program with an institutional name exists only in New Orleans . No equivalent could be found in the other four communities
☐ Learn your tax rate from your address	The state share is 5 percent , with local shares on top. New Orleans 10.00 percent , Baton Rouge 10.50 percent , Metairie 9.75 percent , Lake Charles 10.75 percent . Mandeville could not be verified
☐ Start the document work	For documents to be used in Turkey an apostille takes two stages and costs \$20.00 per document ; the agency's sentence is Apostilles will not be issued for documents intended for use within the United States

A DARK TRAFFIC SIGNAL MEANS AN ALL-WAY STOP

- From the state's own driver guide: When a traffic-control signal is not functioning at an intersection, the intersection shall revert to an all-way or four-way stop.
- Every approaching vehicle stops and the order follows arrival.
- **Turkey has no such rule**, and in a state with frequent outages this is **a genuine crash risk** for a newcomer.
- **This is not a disaster rule, it is a permanent traffic rule**. For live road conditions dial **511**, but note that the tool carries **no evacuation route map**.

GENERATORS: THE NUMBERS

- Run it **20 feet** from the house, doors and windows, with at least **5 feet** of clearance above.
- Shut it off and let it **cool for 20 minutes** before refueling.
- **Never plug it into a wall outlet** and never run it in wet conditions.
- **Buy a battery-powered carbon monoxide alarm**. With headache, dizziness, weakness, chest pain, nausea or confusion, get everyone outside and call **9-1-1**.
- Put **cash** in the bag: the state's own guide says cash machines and cards may not work.

Before day ninety

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Close out your license file	If you came from another state the 30-day window passed long ago; if you came from Turkey the classroom portion of the course should at least be finished
☐ Registration done and insurance proof in the vehicle	One stop without proof can end with your plate seized

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ School documents delivered	One district verifies residency annually and gives families five business days when a question arises
☐ Dated copies of every immigration notice in your file	If you ever miss a hearing or an appointment, that is the only thing you will have in hand
☐ Answer a jury summons if one arrives	Jury work runs at the parish level and your counterpart is the parish clerk of court. Do not ignore the summons, keep a copy of your answer and consult your attorney before you send it
☐ Do not touch the voter registration box	Voter registration is for U.S. citizens only. If the question appears at a license counter or on a form, check no box and tell the clerk your situation

One last note: this list covers what is common statewide. For rates, counters, fees and local rules see your own community: [New Orleans](#), [Baton Rouge](#), [Metairie](#), [Mandeville](#), [Lake Charles](#).



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN LOUISIANA

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