

CHECKLIST · MANDEVILLE

Moving to Mandeville Checklist: The First 30 Days (2026)

A sequenced plan that fits in thirty days: day one, the first week, and what to finish before the thirtieth day. The list opens with two verifications, and the second one is vital in a hurricane state.

SHORT ANSWER

This list opens with two verifications. **First: are you inside the city limits?** The city states the trap on its own page: "Your mailing address does not tell the whole story!" and it gives two concrete tests: **do you pay your water bill to the City of Mandeville**, and **does your property tax bill carry City Tax and City Mills lines?** **Second: register with two separate emergency alert systems.** One is the city's and one is the parish's; **neither substitutes for the other**, and while a single signup is enough in one community on the south shore, **here anyone registered with only one misses half the alerts.**

Deadlines: in one table

TASK	DEADLINE	WHERE
Federal address report	The window is short, do not delay. It applies to moves inside the same parish too	Through the immigration agency's own online channel. Mail forwarding does not substitute for it
License and vehicle registration address	Per the state motor vehicle agency's rule	Two separate transactions; one does not cover the other
License transfer	30 days , only for an arrival from another U.S. state	No transfer for an arrival from Turkey: the required course
Water account request	One business day ahead, by 4 p.m.	The city's own department; for same-day service call 985-626-3144
Returning the plate if proof of insurance cannot be produced	Three business days	A motor vehicle office; past the deadline the plate is destroyed
Property tax protest	August	The parish assessor. The bill arrives in November, but the protest window closes in August
Flood policy taking effect	30-day wait	Renters can buy a policy too
Marriage license waiting period	24 hours	Parish Clerk of Court. The 72 hours going around is wrong

TASK	DEADLINE	WHERE
Matrimonial regime window	One year after moving in and acquiring a domicile	Within that period a matrimonial agreement can be made without court approval

Day one

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Verify whether you are inside the city limits	The city's own two tests: who the water bill is paid to and whether the property tax bill carries a city line . If unsure, call 985-626-3144 . Property tax bills, including those inside the city limits, are prepared by the parish assessor ; what matters is the city line inside the bill
☐ Register with BOTH alert systems	One is the city's system (built on Smart911), the other the parish's (built on Everbridge). Registration is not a public benefits application and immigration status is not asked. The parish emergency management line is 985-898-2359

THE MAILING ADDRESS TRAP: THE CITY ITSELF ISSUES THE WARNING

- The city's own sentence: "Your mailing address does not tell the whole story!"
- **A listing that says "Mandeville, LA"** does not mean the home receives city services, falls under city law enforcement, or is subject to city taxes.
- **What the distinction changes:** whether your property tax bill carries a separate city line, who provides your water and trash service, **whether law enforcement is the city police or the parish sheriff**, your zoning and permit counter, and whether your ballot includes the city tier.
- **One reassuring note:** the school district is a single parish-wide system, so this distinction does not change which district your child belongs to.
- **Do this before you sign a lease or make an offer.** Learning it afterward changes nothing.

The first week

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Open the water and sewer account with the city	The application is made at City Hall: 3101 East Causeway Approach , weekdays 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The request is wanted one business day ahead by 4 p.m. ; for same-day service call 985-626-3144 . Online requests are not processed on weekends and holidays
☐ Budget the deposit	On a standard residential meter it is a \$150 deposit plus a \$50 service fee , an opening cost of \$200 . Credit cards are not accepted for new account charges; check, cash or money order only. For a household without a bank account yet, a money order needs no account
☐ Open the electric account	The provider here is CLECO , and in this group of communities that is true only in Mandeville; go by your own address, not by a company name you read online . Complaints go to the state regulator , not to city hall

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ If you need natural gas	The distributor is Atmos Energy . Account terms and deposits were not measured this round ; we do not say none are required. Not every home has a gas connection, so ask before you sign the lease
☐ Learn the trash calendar	A contracted private firm collects: household trash Wednesday , green waste Tuesday or Friday , recycling Tuesday . Branches may not exceed 50 pounds or 12 inches in diameter, leaves must be bagged ; for a large pile make an appointment at 985-781-3171
☐ Get a library card	The first card is free to parish residents, and children from age 5 can have their own. Bring photo identification and proof of address
☐ File the federal address report	If you are subject to the reporting duty. It applies to moves inside the same parish too , and that is the most common mistake
☐ Start the insurance policy	The order should be: policy, then registration, then driving . Keep the proof in the vehicle

THE NUMBER QUESTION ON THE WATER ACCOUNT: WHAT WE WROTE AND WHAT WE DID NOT

- **The city's water account page never mentions a Social Security number.** That is a fact about what the page says.
- **We do not say "no number is required"** and we do not say **"an application without a number is accepted"**; the city makes no such statement either.
- **The comparison is real:** in another city in this state the water account explicitly requires **photo identification and a valid Social Security card**; another community's water utility lists the number among the information requested. **There is no single rule on water accounts in this state.**
- **The right move:** before you stand in line, call **985-626-3144** and ask **"which identification documents do you accept?"** Write down the answer, the date and the name of the person you spoke with.

Before the thirtieth day

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Enroll in an approved driving course	Turkey is not on the reciprocity list: the course is required and it is the longest item of the first month. Waiting does not shorten it ; enroll the week you arrive. With no fixed route bus service here , delay costs more
☐ If you will work on the south shore, open a tag account	One of the two sales offices is here: the north shore toll plaza facility in Mandeville. Opening an account costs \$20.00 , which covers one tag and the same amount in prepaid crossings on the account. Phone (985) 674-3641
☐ Enroll the children in school	Schools are assigned by address . Renters take note: the district does not count a lease signed with an individual as primary proof of residence; if you rented from an individual, ask about the notarized shared residency form route

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Apply for health coverage	This state expanded coverage and removed the five year wait for children (through age 19); it did not remove it for pregnant individuals. This parish has four federally funded health center sites against 72 in the metro's central parish; do not plan on being uninsured as a temporary phase
☐ Check three things before signing a lease	The waiver of notice clause, the term and recordation. The code itself says a lessee may waive the right to a notice to vacate by written waiver contained in the lease ; if there is one, your five days drop to zero . With no term written in, a residential lease runs month to month by law, and an unrecorded lease has no effect against third persons
☐ If you marry, get the license from the parish clerk	The wait is 24 hours , not 72, and the license is valid 30 days . This parish's own document list could not be verified ; call the clerk before your appointment
☐ If you are married, do not miss the one-year window	The default regime is community of acquets and gains , and the code applies it regardless of the spouses' domicile at the time of marriage or the place of celebration ; having married in Türkiye makes no difference . The first year is the only period in which you can change the regime without court approval
☐ If you buy, book the exemption appointment	In this parish the application can be made remotely by Zoom appointment , and the accepted identification includes a Louisiana identification card ; a voter card is not required . The offices are in Covington and Slidell; there is no office in Mandeville
☐ Buy the flood policy before the season	Renters can buy one too and there is a 30-day waiting period ; since hurricane season begins June 1, have the policy by the end of April . A single-family residence can be insured up to \$250,000

ON THE TOLL: WHAT WE WROTE AND WHAT WE DID NOT

- **What we wrote:** on the bridge connecting the two shores of the lake, tolls are collected **only at the north end of the lake, on the Mandeville side**. That is the operator's own sentence.
- **What we did not write:** the operator's page says **where** the toll is collected, not **how many directions** it is collected in. **We make no claim about direction**; confirm what you will pay going and coming **from the operator's own page**.
- **Rates:** for a two-axle passenger vehicle, **\$3.40** with a tag and **\$6.00** in cash or by card; card payments carry a **3 percent surcharge**. That is a **\$2.60** gap on every tolled crossing.
- **There is no plate-based billing on this bridge**; payment is made at the plaza. So a text about an "unpaid toll" is suspect from the start. **Do not click the link**.
- **How to split the cost:** two of the parish's nine park and ride facilities are **in Mandeville** (675 Lafitte Street and 21490 Koop Drive), and the parish describes them as transfer points for carpooling groups.
- **We could not verify from the agency's own words whether the twin span south of the lake is free today**; we do not write that it is.

One closing note: there is a two-tier structure here. The city has its own mayor, council, police department and court; but property assessment, property records, marriage licenses, schools and emergency management sit on the **parish** side. We collected who handles what in the official offices document of this series. For the statewide rules, see [our Louisiana guide](#).



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN MANDEVILLE

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Mandeville, 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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