

CHECKLIST · MASSACHUSETTS

Moving to Massachusetts 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. In the first week, put electricity and gas in your name (a deposit cannot be demanded from a residential customer) and enroll your children in school; a school may not ask for an SSN or immigration status. Book the learner's permit appointment right away, since the exam is in Turkish. With a car, the order is insurance, registration, inspection within 7 days. Health Connector open enrollment runs October 23, 2026 to January 23, 2027, with December 23 the deadline for January 1 coverage.

First 10 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Report your new address to USCIS (AR-11)	As a general rule, most non-U.S. citizens (including green card holders) must report within 10 days of moving; A and G visa holders and Visa Waiver visitors are exempt. Moves within the state count, and moving between the east and west of Massachusetts can switch your USCIS office from Boston to Lawrence. USCIS online account: uscis.gov/addresschange
☐ EOIR-33 if you have an immigration court case	Within 5 days: respondentaccess.eoir.justice.gov
☐ If you have an ICE check-in requirement	Update your address with ICE too: portal.ice.gov
☐ Post office change of address	A USPS change does not update your USCIS record. They are separate.

First week

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Electricity and gas	No deposit and no late fee may be charged to a residential customer (220 CMR 27.00). Eversource accepts a passport number or an online ID verification: 1-800-592-2000. National Grid asks for an SSN, so with no SSN skip the form and call 1-800-233-5325 .
☐ Do not sign a supplier offer	The Attorney General's March 31, 2026 report found that customers of competitive electricity suppliers paid \$738.7 million more over ten years, with low-income customers losing an average of \$286 a year. Do not sign anything at your door.
☐ Enroll your children in school	Find your district. No SSN is needed and the school cannot ask about immigration status.
☐ If you rent, know your rights	A landlord may ask up front only for first month, last month, a deposit of at most one month and the cost of the lock. The deposit goes in a separate interest-bearing account, and a landlord who mishandles it owes triple damages plus legal fees. A tenant cannot be charged a broker fee: that has been banned statewide since August 1, 2025. There is no rent control.
☐ SSN application (if eligible)	Start online, then visit an SSA office within 45 days: ssa.gov

Within 30 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Book the learner's permit appointment	It costs \$30 and the written exam is in Turkish (25 questions, 18 to pass). No official grace period has been published, so do not wait. The road test is a separate appointment (\$35) and your sponsor needs a U.S. state license. A Turkish license is not exchanged.
☐ With a car, insurance first	No car is registered until an agent stamps the RMV-1 form. Minimums: \$25,000 / \$50,000 bodily injury, \$30,000 property damage, \$8,000 PIP. No SSN is needed to register.
☐ Inspection within 7 days	After registering: \$35, then every year. Your city or town bills the excise tax at \$25 per \$1,000 of value. Keep your RMV address current.
☐ E-ZPass MA account	The transponder is free. Without an account each invoice carries a \$0.60 fee.
☐ Health insurance	Coverage is mandatory in Massachusetts; for tax year 2026 the penalty runs \$26 to \$211 a month, and nothing at or below 150% of the poverty level. Health Connector open enrollment is October 23, 2026 to January 23, 2027; to start January 1, choose a plan and pay by December 23, 2026.
☐ If you are uninsured	Emergency rooms treat you without asking about ability to pay. MassHealth Limited covers emergencies and the Health Safety Net covers care at hospitals and community health centers. Community health centers are sliding-fee, not free.

60 to 90 days and after

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Taxes	The state income tax is a flat 5%; the extra 4% applies only above \$1,107,750. There is no city income tax. The state return is due April 15. An ITIN filer cannot claim the state EITC but can claim the Child and Family Tax Credit and the rent deduction (half of rent, up to \$4,000).
☐ Sales tax	6.25%, the same statewide. Groceries, clothing up to \$175 per item and home heating fuel are exempt.
☐ Changes in the insurance market	From October 1, 2026 some lawfully present groups lose comprehensive MassHealth. From January 1, 2027, financial help and ConnectorCare narrow to green card holders, Cuban and Haitian entrants and COFA migrants. Read every letter you receive; you may have a window to appeal.
☐ Turkish citizens: consular business	The Boston Consulate General covers six states. Book at konsolosluk.gov.tr.
☐ Men subject to Turkish military service	Those born in 2007 and anyone without a deferral must register by December 31, 2026.
☐ Library card	Free for anyone who lives, works or studies in Massachusetts; no SSN requested. Useful for museum passes and cheap outings with children.

IF YOU ARE NOT A CITIZEN, REMEMBER

- Voter registration and voting are for citizens only. If you are offered voter registration during a license transaction, decline it. Registering or voting as a noncitizen is a federal crime.
- Talk to an immigration attorney before you apply for, or drop, any public benefit. A new public charge rule has been in force since September 18, 2026, and MassHealth, SNAP and housing assistance can be weighed in some green card cases.
- The new state PROTECT Act has two halves. Since September 4, 2026 it bars state and local police and court employees from asking about immigration status and from holding anyone solely on an ICE detainer. From November 3, 2026 it requires a judge-signed warrant for a civil arrest at a courthouse. But it **does not bind ICE or CBP** and gives no private right of action. Do not read it as a promise of protection.
- Check your I-94 record at i94.cbp.dhs.gov. Your license term and work permit may depend on it.
- If a green card application is pending, do not leave the country without advance parole.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN MASSACHUSETTS

Have a question about your immigration status?

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