

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · MIAMI

How to Get a Driver's License in Miami, FL: 2026 Guide (FLHSMV, Miami-Dade County)

For Miami newcomers and drivers arriving with a Turkish license: documents, exams, fees and the Miami-Dade Tax Collector branches.

SHORT ANSWER

New Florida residents must get a Florida driver's license within 30 days of establishing residency. Since February 6, 2026, every knowledge and road exam is given in English only, with no interpreters. Florida waives testing only for a few countries' licenses and Türkiye is not one of them, so you must pass both exams. A first license costs \$48. In Miami-Dade, license services moved to the county Tax Collector in 2025; branches are open weekdays 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., some also Saturdays 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., phone (305) 375-5448.

Florida's driver's license: the 30-day rule

- **How residency is established.** Starting a job in Florida, enrolling your child in a Florida public school, registering to vote, filing for a homestead exemption, or living in Florida more than 6 consecutive months all establish residency. Only U.S. citizens may register to vote, so if you are not a citizen, do not register on any form.
- **30 days.** Once residency is established, you have 30 days to get a Florida driver's license before driving on Florida roads.
- **Apply in person.** License and ID card applications are made in person at an office offering driver-license services; a vision test is given. There is no online application for a first license.

Since February 6, 2026: exams are English only

In a January 30, 2026 announcement, FLHSMV said that starting Friday, February 6, 2026, every driver's license knowledge (written) AND road (skills) exam, for every license class, is given exclusively in English, including exams administered orally. There are no interpreters and no printed exams in any other language. If your English is limited, study traffic terms and road signs beforehand.

Arriving with a Turkish license

Florida waives testing for licenses from other U.S. states and a small number of countries; Türkiye is not one of them. A Turkish license is not converted to a Florida license, so once you are a Florida resident you take

both the written and the road exam. Rental companies may ask for an International Driving Permit along with your Turkish license; ask before you book.

NOTE FOR IMMIGRANTS

- You must show proof of lawful presence: an I-551 for green card holders, or a foreign passport with a valid visa and I-94 record (plus an I-20 for F-1 or DS-2019 for J-1), or an EAD.
- If you have an SSN, the name on your application must match Social Security Administration records; if you do not have one, a separate path applies depending on your eligibility.
- Visa holders receive a 60-day temporary paper license without a photo on the first application; the license arrives by mail after status verification and is valid for the length of your USCIS document, up to one year.
- Original or certified documents are required, so gather them before you apply.

Fees (2026)

ITEM	FEE
Class E license (initial, includes learner's permit)	\$48
Commercial license (Class A)	\$75
License endorsement	\$7 each
ID Card	\$25

Many Florida counties add a county service fee on top of these amounts. We could not confirm whether the Miami-Dade Tax Collector adds one, so ask for the total when you call (305) 375-5448 before you go.

Miami-Dade Tax Collector branches

In Miami-Dade, the driver license offices have been moving from FLHSMV to the county Tax Collector since 2025, and the transfer is not finished; FLHSMV still books appointments at offices not yet transferred. All 13 branches below handle taxes and vehicle registration. Before you go, call or check mdctaxcollector.gov/locations to confirm your branch offers license transactions.

BRANCH	ADDRESS
Downtown Miami (main)	200 NW 2nd Ave, Miami, FL 33128
Coral Gables	224 Minorca Ave, Coral Gables, FL 33134
Coral Reef	14653 SW 122 Ave, Miami, FL 33186
Florida City	1448 N Krome Ave, Florida City, FL 33034
Hialeah Gardens	11093 NW 138th St, Suite 1-9, Hialeah Gardens, FL 33018
Kendall	11735 SW 147th Ave, Suite 23, Miami, FL 33196
Miami Beach	100 16th Street, Miami Beach, FL 33139

BRANCH	ADDRESS
Miami Central	3721 NW 7th St, Miami, FL 33126
Miami Gardens	18326 NW 7th Ave, Miami Gardens, FL 33169
Midway Crossings	7795 W Flagler St, Suite 82C, Miami, FL 33144
North Dade Justice Center	15555 Biscayne Blvd, North Miami Beach, FL 33160
Northside	7900 NW 27 Ave, Miami, FL 33147
Richard Gerstein Justice Center	1351 NW 12th St, Suite 133, Miami, FL 33125

All branches share one phone number, (305) 375-5448. Hours: weekdays 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Saturdays 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at select branches only (not North Dade Justice Center). Both appointments and walk-in service are available; details at mdctaxcollector.gov.

The road (driving-skills) test

- According to the Tax Collector's own page, road tests and CDL services are offered only at "selected offices." We could not confirm which branches those are.
- Call before you go and ask which branch gives the road test, on which days and hours, and whether it is by appointment or walk-in.
- Bring your learner's permit (if applicable), proof of insurance, and vehicle registration.

Common mistakes

- Counting the 30-day window from your move-in date rather than from when residency was actually established (job start, school enrollment, and so on).
- Assuming a Turkish license has reciprocity and skipping the exams.
- Going to a random branch for the road test without calling; it is offered only at selected offices.
- Showing up without exam preparation; there are no interpreters in any language.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN MIAMI

Have a question about your immigration status?

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