

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · MINNETONKA

Driver Licenses in Minnetonka: Two Cards, One Trade, 2026 Guide

The license is a state matter and this city adds no rule of its own. But you cannot postpone it the way you can downtown: light rail does not reach this city today and it runs no transit operation of its own.

SHORT ANSWER

Driver licenses are **a state matter** and Minnetonka adds no rule of its own; we **could not find** any indication on the City's pages that it provides a license or state ID service. The state side in brief: a standard card requires **no Social Security number**, the licensing department and its private agents **may not ask about an applicant's citizenship, immigration status or lawful presence**, the application form may not record which document was used, and statute forbids the card from carrying **any indicator or design relating to status**. But the ban has **two exceptions**: on a federally compliant card and on an enhanced license, proof of lawful status is already requested and can be asked about. And **a federally compliant card issued to someone with temporary lawful status carries a "temporary" stamp**. **The fee is identical**, so the choice is not about money: it is **a trade between privacy and usability**.

The state side is in the state guide; the trade is here

We do not repeat the statute citations here, because they work identically everywhere in the state and we set them out in [our Minnesota guide](#). Most readers are on H-1B, F-1 or a similar temporary status and want a card they can fly on, so they head for the federally compliant card. Before you decide, put what each card gives and what it takes side by side.

TEST	STANDARD CARD	FEDERALLY COMPLIANT CARD
Number requirement	No Social Security number required	Proof of status requested
Status indicator on the card	Statute forbids it	On temporary status, a stamp
Can status be asked at application	No, statute says it may not be	Yes, within the exception
Use as federal identification	The card says on its face it cannot be used	It can
Fee	Identical	Identical

THE INVERTED TRAP: SHOWING DOCUMENTS GETS YOU A SHORTER CARD

- A card issued to someone with temporary lawful status expires **on the last day of that stay, or one year** after issuance if the last day is not identified.
- So a person who arrives on a visa and shows documents can receive a **shorter** card than someone who never documented status at all.
- **Extending status and renewing the card are two separate jobs**, and one ends before the other does. Build your renewal calendar around that.
- An error in your entry record goes straight onto your card, because the expiration comes from there. Check your record at i94.cbp.dhs.gov; we **could not verify** the location or hours of the office that corrects entry errors in this metro, so read the list from the agency's own page and **write first, travel second**.

What this city adds: nothing, and what that means

- **The City has no authority here.** Licensing is the state department's job; use its own page for appointments and service locations. **We print no counter address in this guide**, and you should confirm the location you are going to on the booking screen.
- **The ban is not absolute.** The no-questions rule applies only to the standard card; at the federally compliant and enhanced license desk, proof of lawful status is already requested. Do not arrive there unprepared, and do not plan on arguing the distinction at the counter.
- **The practical rule is one sentence:** for the license look to the state, for everything else look to **your address**. In this city the winter parking rule, the trash system and the school district are all set by the City's own arrangements and are **not the same as in neighboring settlements**.

Can you postpone the license in Minnetonka

Here the answer is largely no, and the reason is the transit picture. **Light rail does not reach this city today** and the city **runs no transit operation of its own**. What you have today is Metro Transit bus routes that pass through, some routes of Plymouth Metrolink and SouthWest Transit, and the Metropolitan Council's door-to-door Transit Link service, which covers all of Hennepin County. The planned METRO Green Line Extension will have a station here, Opus, but **we could not verify the opening date and this guide prints none**. Base a lease or purchase decision on **the transit that exists today**, not on a date.

If you do delay the license, set up two things at once: try your commute once on a Metro Transit route, and ask about the assistance program that brings the fare down to **one dollar a ride** for low-income riders. The most useful part of that program is this: instead of proof of income, **a registered community organization can vouch for you**, which is the open door for someone with no U.S. pay stubs yet. The discount ends **365 days** after first use. We **could not verify** whether ID or a number is required to get a card or to enroll, so call and ask before you apply.

TWO NUMBERS YOU CANNOT POSTPONE, CAR OR NO CAR

- **No parking on any city street between 2 and 6 a.m.**, and that rule applies **year-round**, snow or no snow, July included.
- **No vehicle may be parked on the street for more than six hours.** This one runs in daylight too, so leaving the car on the street while you fly out, or keeping a guest's car there for a day, is a violation here.
- **This city has no declared snow-emergency regime.** The "has it been declared yet" reflex you learned in a neighboring settlement does not work here; the rules are in force every day already. The detail is in our vehicle guide.

- 1 **Decide which card you want.** Because the fee is identical this is not a money decision; you are choosing between a card with no status indicator that you cannot fly on, and a stamped federally compliant card.
- 2 **Book through the department's own system** and confirm the location on screen; this guide gives no address, and we found no City service of this kind.
- 3 **If you are going for the federally compliant card, bring your status document.** The no-questions rule does not operate at that desk.
- 4 **If you are on temporary status, put the expiration in your calendar** and check your entry record first.
- 5 **Take your passport for flights.** The standard card is not an accepted document at the checkpoint.
- 6 **If you are planning to live without a car, test it on today's routes**, not on a future station.
- 7 **Keep the address reporting duty separate from the license.** Giving your address to the licensing department does not satisfy the federal requirement.

TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN MINNETONKA

Have a question about your immigration status?



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