

CHECKLIST · MINNETONKA

Moving to Minnetonka: First 90 Days Checklist (2026)

What newcomers need to do in order, the deadlines, and where each one is done. Print it and check the boxes.

SHORT ANSWER

The first ten days are federal: **if you are subject to address reporting, tell USCIS within 10 days**, and if you have a case in immigration court, tell the court within **5 days**. Day one is municipal: tell the household about the **2 to 6 a.m. street parking ban and the six-hour limit**, because both run year-round and there is no declared snow emergency here. The first week has three items: **wait for the first water bill** and ask which quarter's consumption the sewer charge was calculated on, because **a new resident is assigned a default of 15,000 gallons**; **choose your own trash hauler**, because this is an open system and nobody enrolls you automatically; and **set up the reporting channels**, because this city has no 311. And put two dates in your calendar today: **December 31** for the homestead application, and **January 31** for your landlord's rent certificate.

First 10 days

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Report your address to USCIS	Required as a general rule for most noncitizens including green card holders, within 10 days ; A and G visa holders and visa waiver visitors are excepted. uscis.gov/addresschange . Moving from one neighborhood to another counts , and so does moving to another unit in the same building
☐ Update the address on every pending case separately	Filing AR-11 does not change the address on a pending application by itself; enter each application's receipt number
☐ If you have an immigration court case	Within 5 days , on Form EOIR-33/IC: respondentaccess.eoir.justice.gov . There is one court in the state, so moving within the metro does not move your case to another court
☐ If you have an ICE reporting obligation	Report the address through portal.ice.gov as well. Confirm reporting locations from the agency's own check-in page; if you hold an appointment notice, the address on that notice controls
☐ Do not mistake mail forwarding for a notice	A change of address filed with the post office does not update the USCIS record, and giving your address to the licensing department, the county or the City does not satisfy the federal requirement

THE TWO ADDRESS MISTAKES MADE MOST OFTEN HERE

- **Treating the metro as one city.** Minnetonka is a separate city with its own municipal government; neighbors like Hopkins and Wayzata are separate municipalities, and St. Paul across the river is in a different county. **Moving between western suburbs is not "I stayed in the same place."**
- **Not reporting because you crossed no boundary. What triggers the duty is the move itself**, not crossing a county or city line. Going from one neighborhood to another in this city starts the 10 day clock, and it can also **change your school district**.
- **Renting a post office box is not a solution**, because the agency wants the address where you actually live.
- One thing changed in 2026: account for the federal rule that **took effect on June 29, 2026** and reorganized alien registration and what counts as evidence of registration, readable in the [federalregister.gov](https://www.federalregister.gov) entry.

First week

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Tell the household about the overnight ban and the six-hour rule	No street parking between 2 and 6 a.m. , and no vehicle may sit on the street for more than six hours ; both run year-round . There is no declared snow emergency in this city , so the announcement you are waiting for is not coming
☐ Wait for the first water bill and read it	Water and sewer are the City's own service and residential bills arrive quarterly . The City says on its own page that a new resident should wait for the first bill before enrolling in autopay. Utility billing 952-939-8255
☐ Ask which consumption the sewer charge is tied to	The charge is tied to your winter-quarter water consumption , and a new resident is assigned a default figure: 15,000 gallons . So your first period is billed on a number unrelated to what you used, and the fix is not an appeal but waiting for the next winter quarter to be metered
☐ Know that the account will not be in your name	The City issues all bills to property owners and does not open accounts in a renter's name . The upside: no number and no deposit problem. The downside: no bill and no credit history build in your name , and you will have no utility bill to use as proof of address
☐ Choose your own trash hauler	The City runs an open collection system , meaning residents select their own service from among licensed commercial haulers. There is no automatic enrollment here ; if no cart arrives, the reason is probably that you never subscribed. We print no hauler names , so take the list from the City's own page
☐ Know that recycling and organics are separate	Those two are the City's own arrangement: recycling every other week , organics weekly , the charge is inside your utility bill and the 2026 schedule puts it at 38.70 dollars a quarter . The same charge also covers drop-off sites and special drop-off days
☐ Set up the reporting channels, because there is no 311	The City's channels are the service request form on its site, plus a staff directory and a text and email notification service . But know this from the start: not having received a notification is not an excuse

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Get a library card	The card comes from the county system , is free, and no number appears in the published terms . The city has two branches. Call and ask what counts as proof of address , because no utility bill forms in your name
☐ Start school enrollment for the children	There are three separate districts and which one you fall in depends on your address. Find the district from the lookup, then call it directly; we could not verify the document lists, so ask the district in writing
☐ Do not delay the health application	A child under 18 can enroll in MinnesotaCare regardless of status and the status of the adults in the household does not affect it; pregnancy coverage runs 12 months postpartum . Minnesota Department of Human Services line 1-800-657-3672 , MNsure 1-855-366-7873
☐ Get a transit card	The regional card works on buses, light rail and bus rapid transit; the low-income program brings the fare to one dollar a ride and a registered community organization can vouch for you in place of proof of income . The discount ends 365 days after first use

Numbers and address: save them once

UNIT	NUMBER OR ADDRESS
Utility billing	952-939-8255
Water, sewer and public works	952-988-8400
After-hours emergency	952-258-5321
Automated payment line, 24/7	855-945-3661
City hall	14600 Minnetonka Blvd.
Emergency	911 · crisis line 988

BEFORE MAY: THE WATERING BAN AND A PER-DAY PENALTY

- **From May 1 through September 30 no watering is allowed between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.** The hottest hours of the day are closed entirely.
- **Even-numbered addresses water on even days, odd-numbered addresses on odd days.** The test is your house number, so your neighbor may be allowed to water when you are not.
- **The penalty is assessed per day of violation.** A week-long habit means seven citations; telling the household this rule is money directly.
- If you have planted new sod, seed or shrubs, the City issues a **permit** for that. **Request the permit in advance rather than arguing the citation afterward.**
- **Private wells must be registered with the City and a sign must be posted in the yard.** "This water does not come from the city, so it does not concern me" does not work. When you look at a place, ask: is there a private well on this property, is it registered, is the sign up.
- **Hardness is not reduced** in the City's treatment chain, so expect scale on the dishwasher, the kettle and the shower head; if you rent, ask whether the house has a softener.

Renting: not the price, the entry and the exit

The honest answer to both common questions lands in the same place: on rent limits and on a landlord asking about immigration status, **we could not find a local ordinance in this city**, which means your protections are **the state baseline**. You see the neighboring large cities' tenant protections everywhere online, and assuming they apply here is the most common mistake. **The city limit is also the limit of those protections.**

ITEM	IN THE NEIGHBORING LARGE CITIES	HERE
A percentage cap on rent increases	St. Paul has one, by ballot; Minneapolis does not	Research found none
A ban on a landlord asking about status	Minneapolis has an explicit city provision	Research could not verify one
A city extension of the pre-eviction notice	30 days in Minneapolis, temporarily longer in St. Paul	Research found none , the state baseline applies
A rental license or certificate of occupancy	A license in Minneapolis, a fire certificate of occupancy in St. Paul	Research found none

- **There is no cap on the deposit amount**, but the landlord must pay **one percent simple interest** a year and must return the deposit, or **a written itemization of the reasons for withholding, within three weeks** after the tenancy ends. Missing the deadline makes the withholding **bad faith**, and bad faith withholding carries punitive damages of **up to 500 dollars** per deposit. **Leave your forwarding address in writing when you move**; the clock starts with it.
- **A late fee may not exceed eight percent of the overdue rent** and applies only under a **written agreement**. If you see a higher figure in a lease, ask for the source.
- **Eviction only through the courts**. Unlawfully and intentionally locking a tenant out or **shutting off utilities** is a criminal offense. Changing the lock or cutting the power is not an eviction procedure.
- **Paying with public assistance cannot be a ground for refusal**: the state human rights act makes **status with regard to public assistance** a protected class in housing discrimination. The exemption is narrow: only an owner-occupied single-family home renting out a room.
- **The state provision is a retaliation provision, not a screening provision**. [The relevant statute](#) lists among a landlord's prohibited acts **contacting law enforcement about a tenant's immigration status**, but the prohibition is triggered by the tenant having engaged in a **protected act**, such as reporting a code violation. So **writing "a landlord cannot report you" would be wrong**. Damages of **up to 1,000 dollars per occurrence** are provided against a landlord acting in bad faith and unlawfully.
- **If the status question comes**, note the date, the time and who you spoke to, keep the listing and the correspondence, and show them to an attorney. **Do not assume** you have a city provision that stops it.
- **There is one door and the City's own page provides it**: the City's immigration resource page names HomeLine as the tenant advocacy organization giving free legal advice on landlord and tenant matters, and HousingLink for vacancies and housing assistance waiting list information. Free advice from an advocacy organization and legal representation in an immigration case are not the same thing.

Before you sign, ask for four things **in writing**: the deposit amount and the conditions for its return, **whether water is in the rent or billed separately**, **whose responsibility the trash hauler is**, and **which school district**

the address falls in. Learn the billing rhythm from the owner as well: residential customers are billed **quarterly**, commercial and multi-unit residential customers **monthly**, and irrigation accounts only between **June and November**.

Within 30 days

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Insurance and vehicle registration	Minnesota is a no-fault state; compare quotes by the coverage list and ask about translation coverage connected to medical care. We could not verify the number requirement at registration, so call the deputy registrar
☐ Buy studless winter tires	Studded tires are banned, chains are allowed. The foreign-plate exception does not apply to someone working or studying here
☐ If your car is towed	Call 952-988-8400 first and ask about the second possibility too: the car may not have been towed but plowed into the snow . The lot address, the fee schedule and who may claim were not found , so ask the three questions on the phone
☐ Apply for energy assistance early	The shutoff protection window is October 1 through April 30 , the threshold is 50 percent of state median household income , and there is no temperature trigger . If you receive any public benefit with a qualifying threshold, you are deemed to meet the income test. The protection is not automatic ; you must apply and keep to the plan. Water and sewer are entirely outside this regime , and in this city water is the City's own service
☐ Find out who your electric and gas providers are	Neither is the City's; both come from outside. We print no provider names , so confirm the names and the deposit rules from the provider itself . Keep your first bill : the type of entity on the bill is your evidence of which statute covers you in winter
☐ Register with a sliding-fee health center	Before something goes wrong. A sliding fee is a reduced fee, not a free one . We name no clinic in this guide; enter your address in the official search tool
☐ Set up the tax side	No city tax is withheld from your pay and none can be; the state income tax has four brackets with a top rate of 9.85 percent . If you need an ITIN, apply on Form W-7; we publish no IRS office address , appointment line 844-545-5640

THERE IS NO LOCAL INCOME TAX AND THERE CANNOT BE, BUT THERE IS LOCAL SALES TAX

- **The correct sentence:** the relevant statute does not permit any county, city or town to **impose a new tax on income or sales, or to increase an existing one**, and the text contains **no exception**. Your pay stub will show only federal and state withholding.
- **The wrong sentence:** "There is no local tax here." The prohibition concerns a city acting **on its own**, and the legislature **grants local sales tax authority to individual cities by special law**. So **local sales taxes do in fact exist**.
- **And in this city that is not an abstract distinction:** because the authority is granted city by city, **the metro is not a single rate zone**, Minnetonka borders more than one municipality to the east, west and south, and the shopping centers sit near the lines. On a furniture purchase, a remodeling invoice or a vehicle purchase the difference becomes noticeable.
- **We print no local sales tax rate in this guide**, because research could not verify one this round. We give you the mechanism; you will read the figure from **the Minnesota Department of Revenue rate lookup and the City's own tax page**. If you do not see a rate here, that is a deliberate decision, not an omission.

If you bought and if you rent: two dates, two sums of money

DECEMBER 31 AND JANUARY 31

- **An ITIN is enough for the homestead classification**, and both the Minnesota Department of Revenue and the county say so explicitly. There are three conditions: own the property, use it as your **sole or primary residence**, and be a Minnesota resident. The rule is the state's, **the application is the county's**: it goes to the Hennepin County Assessor.
- **First trap, the spouse who does not live there.** Statute requires the number of every owner who occupies the property and **the number of each owner's spouse, even if that spouse does not live at the address**; if it is not given, the household is treated as having elected **partial homestead** treatment. In a newly arrived family that spouse is often still in Türkiye; call the county and ask which declaration they want before you apply.
- **Second trap, December 31 is a hard date.** Even if closing is in October, if the application is not in by that day the property is classified as non-homestead for the year and the benefit is **lost for a year**. The **December 15 date in older sources is obsolete**.
- **You have a notification duty**: on a move, a sale, a change in marital status or a change in the spouse's occupancy, you must notify the county **within 30 days**. **Relative homesteads do not qualify for the property tax refund**; if you are buying a property a family member lives in, know that distinction up front.
- **If you rent, the renter credit** is no longer a separate form; it is claimed as a refundable credit **inside your state income tax return**, and one of the conditions is **a valid number or ITIN**. Your landlord must give you the certificate showing rent paid **by January 31**.
- **If they do not, your route is not closed: from February 1** you can request a **certificate of rent paid** from the Minnesota Department of Revenue. If you file on paper you must attach copies of all rent documents. **There is a wrinkle in this city**: because the water account is not in a renter's name, you have to build proof of payment from bank records and receipts; if you pay cash, **ask for a receipt every month**.
- **We print no county property tax rate in this guide**, because research could not verify a single one. Ask the county assessor for the current valuation of that parcel before you make an offer; if you contest a valuation, in this city the route also runs through the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization within the council.

Within 90 days

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Plan your Türkiye matters	Minnesota falls within the jurisdiction of the Consulate General in Chicago and there is no Turkish mission anywhere in the state. In-person visits by appointment run only between 9:30 a.m. and noon ; the detail is in our consulate guide
☐ If you need an apostille, keep the order	Get the document, have it notarized if needed, apostille last . The office is at the other end of the metro, in Saint Paul, at 5 dollars per apostille , and in person is by appointment with appointments opening 14 days ahead . From here, mailing it is usually the more sensible route

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Voter registration and jury duty	Registration and voting belong only to U.S. citizens , municipal elections included; do not check the citizenship box on a form and do not fill out registration forms handed to you at the door or at a neighborhood event. If a jury summons arrives, call the court named at the top of the letter and do not throw the summons away
☐ Ask an attorney before applying for a public benefit	The federal rule that took effect on September 18, 2026 widened the officer's discretion. Put two dates in your calendar: January 1, 2026 (MinnesotaCare closed to undocumented adults) and January 1, 2027 (the MNSure discount narrows to three statuses)
☐ The right door for refugee cash assistance	Hennepin County is on the list of counties where this is administered by the Resettlement Programs Office, so you go to that office within the Minnesota Department of Human Services rather than to the county. The line is 1-800-814-4806 ; this item should be confirmed
☐ If you are starting a business, budget the newspaper notice	Formation goes to the Minnesota Secretary of State , and LLC articles cost 135 dollars by mail or 155 dollars in person or online, with free annual renewal. If you register an assumed name, it must be published in a qualified legal newspaper in the county of the principal place of business, in two consecutive issues , which here means the Hennepin County market. We print no notice cost ; the publisher sets it
☐ Keep your tax records	Copies of federal and state returns are frequently requested in green card and naturalization applications

Numbers worth knowing in Minnetonka

TOPIC	FIGURE
A declared snow emergency	None. The rules apply the same way at every snow event
Overnight street parking ban	2 to 6 a.m. , year-round, snow or no snow
Limit on time parked on the street	Six hours , daylight included
Plowing threshold and target	Citywide plowing at two inches of accumulation; target nine hours in an average snowfall, with operations typically starting between 2 and 4 a.m.
Consumption assigned to a new resident	15,000 gallons for the sewer charge, until actual usage is established
Billing rhythm	Quarterly for residential; monthly for commercial and multi-unit residential; irrigation accounts only June through November
2026 quarterly items	Sewer infrastructure 31.50 \$ · water infrastructure 63 \$ · stormwater 26.40 \$ · recycling and organics 38.70 \$ · state testing fee 3.89 \$
Sewer unit rates	Municipal sewer 0.66 \$, regional sewer 4.50 \$ per thousand gallons, tied to winter-quarter consumption

TOPIC	FIGURE
Watering ban	May 1 through September 30 , closed 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., odd and even day split, penalty assessed per day
Deposit and return window	No cap on the amount, one percent interest a year, return within three weeks , up to 500 \$ punitive damages for bad faith withholding
Number of school districts	Three : 270, 276 and 284. Your address decides which
Library card	Free to county residents, no number in the published terms; 60 \$ a year for people living outside the state
Homestead and renter credit dates	December 31 and January 31

WEEKEND PLAN: TWO NAMES SEND YOU TO THE WRONG SETTLEMENT

- **The lake the city shares its name with is not in this city.** Lake Minnetonka Regional Park is at 4610 County Road 44 in **Minnetrista**, phone 763-694-7754, open 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. It has a large **nautical-themed play area**, a **chlorinated sand-bottom swimming pond**, picnic areas, a fishing pier and **3.2 miles of paved walking and biking trail**. For a family with small children this is the single strongest suggestion, because a chlorinated sand-bottom pond is easier to manage than a lake beach. **We could not verify whether the pond charges admission.**
- **Second name trap:** Noerenberg Gardens is on the same lake but at 2865 Northshore Drive in **Wayzata**, phone 763-559-6700, open 8 a.m. to sunset. **And the critical part: under the terms of the donation, food and drink, swimming, boat launching and mooring are prohibited inside the park, and pets are not admitted.** These are not house rules someone can waive. Plan the picnic somewhere else.
- **The metro's permanently free attractions are not in this city.** General admission to the Minneapolis Institute of Art is **free every day** and no ticket is required; the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden is **free every day of the year from 6 a.m. to midnight** and has free wireless internet. **Both are in Minneapolis**, and although the garden is free, the galleries of the adjoining Walker Art Center are ticketed.
- **Two items on the St. Paul side:** Como Park Zoo & Conservatory is free with a voluntary donation, and the zoo is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily; and the Minnesota State Capitol tour is **free, 45 minutes and on the hour**, weekdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., starting at the information desk in room 126 on the first floor, phone 651-296-2881. The science museum is in St. Paul too, not Minneapolis.
- **One detail for a parent, because nobody thinks to check:** Como Park Zoo & Conservatory has **no stroller rental**, single or double. Bring your own. The conservatory **closes at 4 p.m. on four dates:** October 5, 2026, November 9, 2026, December 21, 2026 and February 22, 2027.
- **The City's own parks, pool and ice rink are not on this list**, because those pages were closed to automated access this round. We neither assert that they exist nor that they do not; we print no address, hours or fee.
- **A state park vehicle permit can be borrowed from the library**, the permit is valid **seven days**, must be displayed on the dashboard and the number is limited. **We could not verify that the county library system participates in that program**, so call your branch and ask. **We print no park fees.**
- **The regional park district publishes fee assistance programs**, and one of them is **transportation fee assistance**; the district writes that it weights this **toward new visitors and those who cannot otherwise get to the parks**. In a suburb with no transit operation of its own, that is a real door for a family without a car. **We could not verify the eligibility conditions or how to apply**; read them on [the district fee assistance page](#).

IF YOU ARE NOT A CITIZEN, REMEMBER

- Do not check the citizenship box on any form and do not register to vote. Do not fill out or accept voter registration forms handed to you at the door, at neighborhood events or at mall entrances. If a jury questionnaire arrives, do not leave it blank; notify the court named in the letter.
- Consult an immigration attorney before applying for a public benefit, before dropping one you already receive, or before moving from one program to another.
- Check your entry record at i94.cbp.dhs.gov. Your work authorization, your license expiration and some filing eligibilities depend on it; a license issued to someone with temporary lawful status expires **on the last day of that stay**.
- If you have a pending green card application, do not travel abroad without advance parole.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN MINNETONKA

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Minnetonka and the surrounding area, 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.

Attorney advertising. This guide is general information only. It is not legal advice and is not a substitute for the advice of an attorney. Information compiled from official sources as of October 9, 2026; fees and procedures change, so check the official site before you act. Reading this guide does not create an attorney-client relationship. The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisements. Latest version: clinchlaw.com/city-guides/minnetonka-immigration-attorney