

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · NASHVILLE

How to Get a Driver License in Nashville: 2026 Guide

Testing is done only at the two full-service centers, and not at the downtown branch. The card issued to someone with temporary lawful presence is temporary and says so on its face.

SHORT ANSWER

The license is **a state matter** and this city has no rule of its own on it; what is specific here is **geography**. Davidson County holds **two full-service driver service centers**, one **branch where no testing is done**, and **seven kiosks**. **Here is the easiest mistake:** a reader applying for a first license, or newly arrived from abroad, **goes to the downtown branch, and no testing is done there**. The second sentence touches your case: in this state **research found no status-independent driving card**; the agency's document lists recognize three categories only, and **the card issued to someone with temporary lawful presence is temporary**. **That is not a procedural tip, it is a reason to consult a lawyer.**

What happens at which location

We read the agency's own location list on **October 12, 2026**. The locations in the county fall into three groups, and **the distinction is not on the sign but in the agency's own note**.

LOCATION	ADDRESS	DAYS AND HOURS
Full service, testing done	Hart Lane Driver Service Center, 624 Hart Lane, Nashville, TN 37216	Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Full service, testing done	Hickory Hollow Driver Service Center, 2460 Morris Gentry Blvd., Antioch, TN 37013	Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
No testing	Downtown Express Driver Service Center, 312 Rosa L. Parks Blvd, 3rd floor, Nashville, TN 37203	Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The agency's own note on the downtown branch says exactly this: no testing is done at this location. **So if you are applying for a first license, or you have just arrived, do not go there;** testing happens only at the two full-service centers above.

Seven kiosks, and what they are for

The county also has **seven kiosks**. A kiosk is not a counter; it handles ready transactions such as renewals and duplicates, and it is **not suitable for testing, first issuance or document review**. They sit at **Metro Center** (220 French Landing Dr.), **Bellevue Public Library** (720 Baugh Rd), **Davidson County Clerk** (700

Second Ave. South), **Davidson County Register of Deeds** (300 Deaderick St), **MPD West Precinct** (5500 Charlotte Pike), **Foster Info Center** (1150 Foster Ave) and **Goodlettsville Public Library** (205 Rivergate Parkway).

The last one ties back to this guide's thesis: Goodlettsville is **one of the six cities** inside the county that kept its own municipal government, and the kiosk sits in that city's library. In other words **the service runs county-wide**, and living in a separate municipality does not shut you out.

RESTRICTIONS BY OFFICE: WE STATE THE LIMIT OF THE MEASUREMENT

- In some states the agency publishes, as data, which office handles **foreign national transactions**. **In this state such a field was looked for and not found:** the agency's location data carries the name, address, hours, phone and county, but **no service list**.
- **That does not prove there is no restriction by office.** The agency's only written distinction is between **full service** and **a branch where no testing is done**, and it asks new and returning residents to go to **any full-service center**.
- **We will not give you a shortcut:** call before you go and **name your transaction when you ask**. Write down the answer and the name of the person you spoke with.

Two things to do before the appointment

- 1 **Fill out the application online.** The agency recommends that new and returning residents complete the application through its own online services channel before visiting a center; documents can be sent for **pre-approval**, which takes **five business days**. **You still have to go to the center with the original documents.**
- 2 **Book an appointment, but know they are not offered everywhere.** The transactions you can book include first issuance, renewal, duplicate, name and address change and the knowledge test. **Arrive fifteen minutes early;** if you are late the appointment is canceled and you join the walk-in line. Centers are **closed on state holidays**.

Four statewide items, all of which touch your case

- **Research found no status-independent driving card.** The agency's document lists recognize three categories only: citizenship, lawful permanent residence and **temporary lawful presence**. No fourth card was found. **We do not say there is none; we say it was not found.**
- **The card issued to someone with temporary lawful presence is temporary.** Under the administrative rule's own definition it is valid for **the authorized period of stay; if the stay has no definite end, the term is one year**. And **the face of the card reveals your status:** on the agency's own sample image the words TEMPORARY DRIVER LICENSE appear in capitals before the name.
- **There is no test in Turkish.** The computerized test is offered in three foreign languages and Turkish is not among them. **Interpreters are not allowed**, a printed dictionary is, an electronic one is not.
- **A Turkish license is not exchanged.** Türkiye does not appear on the agency's reciprocity list; new residents from other countries are required to take **the vision screening, the knowledge test and the road skills test**. An **English translation** of a Turkish passport may be required.

THE SUBTLE CONSEQUENCE OF HAVING NO TEST IN TURKISH

- In this state, **someone who cannot read and speak English and takes the test in another language** falls into a different card regime: the card **cannot be renewed** and is valid only for a limited period, and when it expires the test is given **in English only**.
- **Because Turkish is not offered at all**, a Turkish reader takes the test in English and **does not fall into that regime**.
- **Do not read that as a convenience**: it is not a convenience, it is **the absence of one**. You have to prepare for the test in English, and no help beyond a printed dictionary is allowed.

Winter appointments: two written limits

Because winter is real in this city we repeat two of the agency's own rules here. First: **road tests are not given in extreme weather**, and the agency names **icy roads** when it lists what that covers. Second: **during winter months road tests are not given in the dark**. So when you book for January, **pick an early slot** and allow for a weather cancellation.

Proof of address and the order of your first week

What trips people up in a license file is usually not the documents but **proof of address**. Set the order this way: first open power and gas in your own name, then water; a bill in your name works as proof of residence at many doors. **And write the address the same way everywhere**: your license, your vehicle registration, your lease and your school enrollment should match.

- 1 **Talk to your attorney first.** In this state the agency requires proof of lawful presence and the card type follows your status; settle which document you will apply with before you build your file.
- 2 **Pick the right center:** testing is done only at the two full-service centers, and there is none at the downtown branch.
- 3 **Call and name your transaction.** The agency's location data has no service-list field, so we cannot read any office-level restriction out of the data.
- 4 **Complete the application online and send your documents for pre-approval;** pre-approval takes five business days.
- 5 **Prepare your proof of address:** a utility bill in your name or a lease.
- 6 **Prepare for the test in English**, and if you book in winter months pick an early slot.
- 7 **Tie the vehicle side to this:** a valid state driver license or state photo identification, **even a temporary one**, counts as sufficient on its own at vehicle registration.



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