

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · NEW JERSEY STATE

How to Get a Driver's License in New Jersey: 2026 Guide

For newcomers to New Jersey, green card and visa holders, and drivers arriving with a foreign license: the Standard License, REAL ID, the 6 Points of ID system, tests and fees.

SHORT ANSWER

Since 2021, anyone living in New Jersey can get a Standard License regardless of immigration status; if you have no SSN, proof of an ITIN or a notarized affidavit works instead. Identity documents are scored on a 6-point system, and a Turkish passport alone counts as a 4-point primary document. An auto license costs \$24 (valid 4 years). REAL ID applicants need full SSN verification and proof of lawful presence instead. There's no reciprocity agreement with Türkiye, so you'll need both the knowledge test and the road test.

Before you start

- **The Standard License has been available regardless of immigration status since 2021.** Under the Covering All Residents Act, any New Jersey resident can apply for a Standard License.
- **The 6 Points of ID system.** One Primary document (4 points), plus at least 2 points of Secondary documents (one 3-point document or two 1-point documents), plus one proof of New Jersey residency, plus your SSN verified, or ITIN proof, or (if you qualify for neither) a notarized affidavit.
- **A Turkish passport alone counts as a 4-point primary document.** MVC's official "Standard Lines Sheet" explicitly lists a foreign passport from the applicant's own country of citizenship. A Turkish driver's license, shown together with one other government-issued ID, also counts as primary.
- **REAL ID is a separate track.** The formula is 2 (residency) + 1 (SSN) + 6 (identity points), and it requires proof of lawful presence (a passport with a valid visa and I-94, a green card, or an EAD). It's the star-marked card, required for domestic flights and federal buildings since May 7, 2025.
- **New residents get only 60 days.** You must transfer your out-of-state license and vehicle registration to New Jersey within 60 days of your move (shorter than Texas's 90 days).
- **No reciprocity with Türkiye.** Only Taiwan and South Korea licenses are exempt from testing. The knowledge-test manual is published in English, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Gujarati, Korean, Arabic, Haitian Creole and Portuguese; Turkish isn't among them.

Step by step

- 1 **Choose your card type.** Standard or REAL ID. If you want REAL ID, check the document list at nj.gov/mvc before your appointment.

- 2 Gather your 6 points of identity.** A Turkish passport (4 points, primary) plus a secondary document such as a school/college ID with transcript (or two 1-point documents if you have no secondary document).
- 3 Prepare your New Jersey residency proof.** A lease, a utility bill, or a bank statement.
- 4 Provide your SSN, or ITIN proof.** If you qualify for neither, you'll sign MVC's notarized affidavit form instead.
- 5 Book an appointment at an MVC Licensing Center.** Through telegov.njportal.com/njmvc. An appointment is required for first-time licenses/IDs, permits, out-of-state license transfers, CDLs, and knowledge testing.
- 6 Get an Initial Permit** (valid 2 years) and take the knowledge test and vision test. If you fail, you can retest after 7 days.
- 7 Practice driving.** At least 3 months if you're 21 or older; at least 6 months and 50 supervised hours (including 10 at night) if you're under 21, certified on Form BA-CSD.
- 8 Take the road test** (retest after 14 days if you fail), pay the fee, and get your Probationary License.

Fees (2026)

ITEM	FEE
Auto license (initial/renewal, 4 years)	\$24
REAL ID surcharge	\$11
License change/duplicate	\$11
Examination Permit (auto)	\$10
Commercial Permit	\$125
Motorcycle Permit	\$5
Moped Permit	\$5

Licensing Center hours: weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturdays 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., closed Sundays. You can pay by Amex, Mastercard, Visa, Discover, check, money order or cash.

If you are not a U.S. citizen

NOTE FOR IMMIGRANTS

- A Standard License application does not ask for immigration documents or proof of lawful status.
- If you have no SSN, ITIN proof or a notarized affidavit works instead.
- If you want REAL ID, you'll need proof of lawful presence (a passport with a valid visa and I-94, a green card, or an EAD).
- If your documents aren't in English, you'll need a certified translation.

Driving on a Turkish license

- **Visitors:** you can drive on a valid Turkish license for up to one year with an International Driving Permit issued in your country of residence.
 - **New residents:** there's no reciprocity with Türkiye, so you must complete both the knowledge test and the road test.
 - **Renting a car:** rental companies may also ask for an International Driving Permit.
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Common mistakes

- Showing up for your appointment with the wrong mix of documents for the 6 Points of ID system.
- Not checking the extra documents REAL ID requires before you go.
- Missing the 60-day deadline and continuing to drive on an out-of-state license.
- Under 21 and arriving for the road test without the 50-hour supervised-driving certification.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN NEW JERSEY

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients across New Jersey, in Turkish and English. Free evaluation:

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