

CHECKLIST · PHILADELPHIA

Moving to Philadelphia Checklist: The First 90 Days

What newcomers should do, in order, with deadlines and where to do it. Print it and check items off.

SHORT ANSWER

If you are subject to the address-reporting requirement, report your new address to USCIS within 10 days. In the first week, open electric service with PECO (and gas in some areas), gas with Philadelphia Gas Works, and water with the Philadelphia Water Department, and enroll your children in school. In Pennsylvania you have 20 days to register your vehicle and 60 days to transfer an out-of-state license, two separate deadlines.

First 10 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Report your address to USCIS (AR-11)	As a general rule, required for most noncitizens, including green card holders; A and G visa holders and Visa Waiver visitors are exempt. uscis.gov/addresschange
☐ In immigration court? File EOIR-33	Within 5 days: respondentaccess.eoir.justice.gov
☐ ICE check-in obligations?	Update ICE too at portal.ice.gov
☐ Change your address with USPS	Separate from USCIS; one does not update the other.

First week

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Electricity	PECO. If you have no SSN or U.S. credit history, PECO's "New Service Identity Verification Application" lets you use a visa, a green card, or a passport as ID; send the form and two IDs to CustomerService@PECO-energy.com .
☐ Natural gas	Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW) serves most of the city, (215) 235-1000, at least 7 days' notice; PECO serves gas in some areas.
☐ Water	Philadelphia Water Department, (215) 685-6300 / wrb.contactintake@phila.gov . If you rent, getting the bill in your own name requires your landlord's written consent, one government photo ID (a PHL City ID works), proof of residency, and your landlord must hold a valid rental license.

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Trash and recycling days	Find your collection day by address at phila.gov ; report a missed pickup to 311.
☐ School enrollment	Your neighborhood school, or the Office of Student Enrollment and Placement, 440 North Broad Street, Suite 111.
☐ Library card	Free Library of Philadelphia, free for any Pennsylvania resident; a passport or birth certificate counts as supporting ID. Find a branch: freelibrary.org

Within 20 days: vehicle registration

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Pennsylvania insurance	Minimum \$15,000 / \$30,000 bodily injury, \$5,000 property damage ("15/30/5"), with a Limited or Full Tort election.
☐ Title and registration	Form MV-1, through an authorized agent (notary, dealer, or messenger service). Title \$72, annual registration \$48.
☐ Safety inspection	Within 10 days of registration.
☐ Emissions test	Required in the five-county Philadelphia region, including Philadelphia.

Within 60 days: driver's license

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Pennsylvania driver's license	A valid out-of-state license transfers without a test. Find a center and book an appointment: pa.gov/agencies/dmv/find-a-location
☐ Arrived with a foreign license	Including a Turkish one: you must pass both the knowledge and road tests.
☐ E-ZPass PA account	peturnpike.com , no stated monthly fee.

Within 90 days and beyond

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Turkish citizens: consulate services	Turkish Consulate General in New York, appointments at konsolosluk.gov.tr
☐ Bought a home? Homestead Exemption	Reduces your assessed value by \$100,000, saving most owners about \$1,399/year. Deadline December 1; apply by October 1 for it to show on your current bill.

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Philadelphia Wage Tax	On top of Pennsylvania's flat 3.07% state tax, you pay the city's own Wage Tax: since July 1, 2026, 3.735% for residents and 3.425% for nonresidents who work in Philadelphia. Your employer usually withholds it from your pay.

IF YOU ARE NOT A U.S. CITIZEN

- Never check "U.S. citizen" on any form and never register to vote.
- Talk to an immigration attorney before applying for SNAP or any public benefit: a new public charge rule took effect on September 18, 2026.
- Check your I-94 at i94.cbp.dhs.gov.
- With a green card application pending, do not travel abroad without advance parole.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN PHILADELPHIA

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Philadelphia and the surrounding area, in Turkish and English.

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