

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · PLYMOUTH

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

Licensing is a state matter and Plymouth has no rule of its own here. This guide summarizes the state rule briefly and gives the rest of the space to why, in this suburb, the license is hard to postpone.

SHORT ANSWER

Licensing is **state work** and Plymouth adds no rule of its own. The state side in brief: a standard license requires **no Social Security number**, statute bars the card from carrying **any indicator or design that relates to the lawful presence or the citizenship of the holder**, and the licensing agency and its agents **may not ask** an applicant about citizenship, immigration status or lawful presence. But that ban has **two exceptions** and both matter to you: on a REAL ID or an enhanced license application proof of status is required and may be asked about, and a REAL ID issued to someone with temporary lawful status is marked **"temporary."** **The fee is identical**, so the choice is not about money: it is **a trade between privacy and usability**. What Plymouth adds is a consequence rather than a rule: **there is no light rail here**, so the idea of putting the license off does not work as easily as it does in the metro's two big cities.

The state side in three sentences, with the detail in the state guide

We do not write the rule out at length here, because it works identically everywhere in the state and we set it out with statute citations in [our Minnesota guide](#). In brief: the statute governing the content of the card **forbids** a status indicator on the standard card; the statute creating the no-questions rule carries **two exceptions**, both of them the REAL ID and enhanced license applications; and a third section says a card issued to a person with temporary lawful status expires **on the last day of that stay**, or one year after issuance if that last day is not identified. Fees, the document list and the language of the test are all on the state side.

TEST	STANDARD CARD	FEDERALLY COMPLIANT CARD
Number requirement	No Social Security number needed	Proof of status required
Status marking on the face	Prohibited by statute	Marked for temporary status
May status be asked at application	No, the statute forbids it	Yes, within the exception
Use as federal identification	The face says it cannot be used	It can
Fee	Identical	Identical

Do not miss the inverted trap: someone who arrives on a visa and shows documents gets a **shorter** card than someone who never documents status at all, because the card expires with the stay. Plan your renewal

calendar around that, and know that an error in your entry record goes straight onto your card.

What changes on the Plymouth side

Nothing, and we say so plainly: licensing is **state work** and the City has no authority over it. We **found nothing** on the City's own pages indicating it provides license or ID services; use the state's own pages for appointments and service locations. The only practical consequence for a resident here is this: you will find the same license rule in the neighboring settlements, but **the winter parking rule, the garbage system and the electric provider change street by street**. For licensing look at the state; for everything else look at your address.

WORK THROUGH THE CHOICE IN THIS ORDER

- If you do not need to show ID at an airport or a federal building, and you carry your passport anyway, the **standard card** is the only document that carries no status marking.
- If you fly often the federally compliant card is practical, but go in knowing that on temporary status the card arrives **marked and expires with your period of stay**.
- **Take your status documents to the appointment.** For a standard card they may not ask, for a federally compliant card they may, and the counter is not the place to argue that distinction.
- **The document you use on an international flight is a passport.** The state's standard license is not an accepted document for flying.

Can you postpone the license in Plymouth

Mostly not, and we write out why. **There is no light rail**, and that is the clearest transit difference between this city and the metro's two big ones: they are the light rail core, this is not. Life without a car is still possible, because the city has **its own municipal bus company**: running since 1984, the **first system** created under the state law that lets suburban cities run their own transit, and carrying about **half a million rides** a year. It does two things: **express buses** to downtown Minneapolis and to the University of Minnesota, and **an on-demand shuttle** inside the city. The shuttle is **\$3 one way** with a **\$30** ten-ride punch card. What cannot be postponed is parking: **on-street parking is prohibited here every night of the year, from 2 to 5 a.m.**, and that ban does not care whether the car is yours. A rental, a borrowed car and a visitor's car fall under the same rule. We set out the snow regime and the transit detail 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 marking that you cannot fly on, and a stamped federally compliant card.
- 2 Book through the state's own system** and confirm the location on the booking screen; we **found no indication** that the City offers this service and this guide prints no counter address.
- 3 If you are going for the federally compliant card, take your status document.** The no-questions rule does not operate at that counter.

- 4 Ask the licensing agency about the test language and the document list**, not this guide, and ask for the answer in writing. How long you may drive on a Turkish license, and whether any test exemption exists, **could not be confirmed**; we collected every open question in [the foreign license section of the state guide](#).
- 5 If you are on temporary status, put the card's expiry date in your calendar**. It expires on the last day of your lawful stay.
- 6 Read the winter parking rule before you buy a car**. The overnight ban runs all year and two inches of snow starts a separate regime; both are in our vehicle guide.
- 7 Keep the address-reporting obligation separate from the license**. Giving an address to the licensing agency does not satisfy the federal requirement.



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