

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · ROSWELL

How to Get a Driver's License in Roswell: DDS, the Turkish-Language Exam, SSN and DDS-351, 2026 Guide

For Roswell residents and drivers arriving with a Turkish license: the fact that the city has no DDS office, the documents, the exams, the fees, and two official sources that disagree about road tests.

SHORT ANSWER

Licenses come from the state Department of Driver Services (DDS), and **there is no published DDS address inside the Roswell city limits**. The nearest full-service counter is the county building to the north, 11575 Maxwell Road in Alpharetta. The knowledge exam is walk-in and, per the DDS language list, offered in Turkish; the road test is by appointment and in English. An SSN or form DDS-351 is required, every document must be in English and translations are not accepted. An eight-year license costs \$32.

What to know before you go

- **There is no office in the city.** The City of Roswell does not issue licenses, this is a state function, and no DDS counter inside Roswell has been confirmed. You do this errand outside the city.
- **A 30-day clock.** You count as a resident after 30 days or more in the state, or if you take a job and enroll your children in school within 10 days. From then you have 30 days to hold a Georgia license. Until then you can drive on your foreign license. Georgia law does not allow a license to be issued to someone without lawful status.
- **Every visit starts with an online form.** Whatever you are coming for, DDS asks you to complete the Online License/ID/Permit form before you enter the center (DRIVES e-Services, free). An appointment is needed only for the road test. The call center is (678) 413-8400.
- **An SSN or DDS-351.** You either give a Social Security number or complete form DDS-351 showing you cannot get one; you pick the form up at the center. Everyone with work authorization has to apply for an SSN, so if you hold work authorization the DDS-351 route is closed.
- **Documents must be in English and translations are not accepted,** and DDS wants the originals of your immigration documents at every visit; photocopies do not pass.
- **Delaying the license is expensive in Roswell.** No train reaches the city and the most frequent route into it comes every 40 minutes, so a working adult without a car lives with that wait twice a day.

Is there a DDS office in Roswell?

The honest answer is that we could not confirm one this round, so **we publish no Roswell DDS address**. A location page carrying the name Roswell appears to exist on the DDS site (it shows up in search results with its title), but the page returned an error to every attempt; whether it is a staffed center, a self-service kiosk only or a stale record is unknown. There is a second trap: the old DDS office at **8610 Roswell Road** in Sandy Springs **closed in September 2017** and was replaced by Maxwell Road, yet many older guides and map listings still show it. Do not go there. The right move: search your own ZIP code (30075, 30076 or 30077) in the DDS location finder, or call **(678) 413-8400** and ask whether there is a counter inside Roswell. **We print no distance or drive time either:** no official mileage or travel time from central Roswell to Maxwell Road or to Sandy Springs is published. The route north runs along Alpharetta Highway and GA 400; the county counter to the south is reached along Roswell Road.

COUNTER	ADDRESS	WHAT IT DOES
DDS center (Maxwell Road)	11575 Maxwell Road, Alpharetta GA 30009 · (678) 413-8400	First issuance, renewal, replacement, out-of-state transfer, reinstatement, driving history and knowledge exams. The tag office, the Board of Assessors and the county water billing division are in the same building
North Fulton Service Center	7741 Roswell Road NE, Sandy Springs GA 30350	County counter: tags, passport acceptance, marriage licenses. The name misleads: the building is on Roswell Road but it is in Sandy Springs. It is the one county counter reachable by bus
Marietta (Cobb)	1605 County Services Pkwy, Marietta GA 30008	One of the nearest alternatives that does give road tests
Decatur (DeKalb)	2801 Candler Rd, Ste 82, Decatur GA 30034	The second alternative for a road test

Step by step

- 1 Fill in the online form.** dds.drives.ga.gov (DRIVES e-Services), free.
- 2 Prepare the documents in English:** an identity document, an SSN (or DDS-351), proof of address from two separate sources, and an immigration document showing your lawful status. Detail is in the table below.
- 3 Take the knowledge exam without an appointment.** You join the line at the Maxwell Road center and must start at least 30 minutes before it closes. There are two sections, road rules and road signs, and each needs 15 correct out of 20.
- 4 Call before you plan a road test.** Two official sources disagree about whether this center gives road tests (below). Either way you book through DRIVES e-Services and you bring a four-wheeled vehicle that is tagged, registered and insured. The pass mark is 75 out of 100. Fail once and you can retry the next day, twice and after 7 days; if you failed because of a crash or a violation, you wait 30 days.

- 5 Pay the fee and take the temporary document.** The permanent card arrives by mail within 30 days. TSA does not accept the paper document, so carry your passport on domestic flights until the card arrives.

Which documents are asked for?

ITEM	FOR SOMEONE ARRIVING FROM TÜRKIYE
Identity (1 document)	A valid foreign passport, a green card (I-551) or an employment authorization document (I-766)
Social Security	An SSN, or form DDS-351 for people who cannot get one
Address (2 documents, 2 separate sources)	A lease, an electric or water bill, a bank statement. A PO box is not accepted. In Roswell the water bill may be the city's or Fulton County's depending on the address, and either works
Lawful status (1 document)	Passport plus visa plus I-94; for F or J an I-20 or DS-2019 plus I-94; an EAD; a green card

Is the knowledge exam really available in Turkish?

According to the DDS language list, both the **road rules and road signs sections of the non-commercial knowledge exam are offered in 26 languages, and Turkish is one of them.** The road test is in English. There is a conflict worth knowing: the older driver manual text still published on the DDS site says the road signs section is given in English only, while the newer language list says both sections are translated. Call **(678) 413-8400** before you drive to Maxwell Road and confirm you can take the signs section in Turkish. One accompanying person, including an interpreter, is allowed.

The road test: two official sources say different things

We are not picking a side. **The text of the DDS page for the Maxwell Road center lists a Non-Commercial Road Test among its services** and says an appointment is needed only for the road test. Our statewide research, on the other hand, puts this center among those that give no road test. Both sources are official and the conflict was not resolved this round. There is one practical route: call **(678) 413-8400**, ask, and book accordingly; if it does not, the nearest alternatives are Marietta and Decatur. The center's hours are listed as Tuesday to Friday 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday 7:30 a.m. to noon, closed Sunday and Monday. Confirm those on the same number, because we could not read the DDS pages directly.

Fees

TRANSACTION	FEE
License (Class C, 8 years; LIMITED-TERM and at most 5 years for non-citizens)	\$32
Instructional permit	\$10

TRANSACTION	FEE
State ID card (8 years)	\$32
Lost card or renewal	\$10
Online transaction discount	\$5 less

The card, a Turkish license, and Roswell without a car

- **REAL ID and LIMITED-TERM.** Every Georgia license and ID issued since 2012 is REAL ID at no extra charge, with a star in the top right corner. A card issued to a non-citizen is printed **LIMITED-TERM** and ends with your approved period of stay, at most five years, while a citizen's card runs eight. If your immigration document is in an extension process, you can get a one-time 120-day extension by bringing the original I-797C.
- **Grocery store kiosks:** DDS runs 24-hour self-service kiosks in some stores and a renewal there carries a \$5 reduction, but kiosks only renew or replace, so they are no use for a first license, and **we could not confirm a kiosk inside Roswell**. The kiosk listed at 4920 Roswell Road, despite the name, is on the Sandy Springs and Buckhead side.
- **A Turkish license is not exchanged.** The only reciprocal jurisdictions on the DDS list are South Korea (with a consulate letter) and Taiwan. You take the vision test, the knowledge exam and the road test.
- **You do not surrender it.** Your Turkish license is shown during the transaction and handed back.
- **An international driving permit** is not a license on its own and cannot be used in a DDS transaction.
- **The test vehicle:** if your own car is not yet registered in Georgia, you can use someone else's insured and registered vehicle; carrying the insurance and registration documents is enough.
- For adults getting a first license, DDS may ask those going straight to Class C for a declaration of 40 hours of supervised driving, 6 of them at night. Whether a Turkish license holder is exempt is not stated on the DDS pages we read; call (678) 413-8400 and ask.
- **When you look at homes:** being on the route of bus 85 or 185, or within walking distance of the Mansell Road lot, makes a real difference to a household trying to manage on one car at first.

NOTE FOR IMMIGRANTS

- Keep your passport, visa, I-94 and any I-797C or EAD in one folder and take it to **every** visit; DDS wants to see the originals each time.
- The LIMITED-TERM date on your card follows your immigration document, so go back to DDS the day you extend your status.
- Use the Maxwell Road building in a single day: join the DDS line, stop at the tag office in the same building, and if you own the home file your county homestead application (deadline April 1).
- Common mistakes: driving to a Roswell or 8610 Roswell Road address you found online, bringing translations, forgetting the originals of your immigration documents, arriving without completing the online form, trying the DDS-351 route while holding work authorization, and setting aside a day for a road test without confirming by phone.
- If anyone at the center offers you voter registration and you are not a U.S. citizen, decline and check the Opt-Out box on the form.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN ROSWELL

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Roswell and the surrounding area, in Turkish and English. Free evaluation: clinchlaw.com/free-evaluation · +1 866-491-7669

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