

CHECKLIST · SAN FRANCISCO

Moving to San Francisco 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. Once you are a California resident, your previous license is good for only 10 days, so look for a DMV appointment right away. Pay your car's California registration fees to the DMV within 20 days; that step includes California insurance and a smog check if required. In San Francisco, PG&E delivers electricity and CleanPowerSF supplies it (you will see both names on one bill), SFPUC handles water, Recology handles trash and recycling, and SF311 covers city services.

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
☐ Book a DMV appointment for your California license	You have only 10 days from establishing residency (California Vehicle Code section 12505). San Francisco office: 1377 Fell Street. dmv.ca.gov , San Francisco office
☐ In immigration court? File EOIR-33	Within 5 days: respondentaccess.eoir.justice.gov . The San Francisco Immigration Court closed on September 4, 2026; check your hearing notice, because your case may now sit under the Concord court.
☐ ICE check-in obligations?	Update ICE too: portal.ice.gov
☐ Change your address with USPS	Separate from USCIS; one does not update the other.

First week

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Electricity	PG&E runs the grid and sends the single monthly bill. The city's CleanPowerSF program supplies the electricity by default. Seeing both names on your bill is normal. cleanpowersf.org

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Water and sewer	SFPUC, the city's own agency: request service online or call 415-551-3000 (Mon-Fri 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.). A deposit is required to start service. sfpuc.gov
☐ Trash, recycling and compost	Recology, a private company under an exclusive city franchise. Three bins: blue (recycling), green (compost), black (trash). Separating compost is a legal requirement in San Francisco. recology.com
☐ City services (SF311)	311 (inside the city) or 415-701-2311, 24/7, with phone help in 160+ languages. Use it for street cleaning, abandoned vehicles, potholes, graffiti and similar requests.
☐ Clipper card	For Muni, BART and most regional transit: sfmta.com
☐ School enrollment	SFUSD enrollment requirements . A parent must live in San Francisco.
☐ SSN application (if eligible)	Start online, then visit an SSA office; an appointment is generally needed: ssa.gov

Within 20 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ California car insurance	At least \$30,000/\$60,000/\$15,000.
☐ Smog check	Required for most gasoline vehicles; the certificate is valid 90 days after testing.
☐ Vehicle registration	DMV, Form REG 343, your previous state's title or registration, and a REG 31 Verification of Vehicle.
☐ FasTrak account (if you use the bridges)	Golden Gate Bridge: goldengate.org . Bay Bridge and other state bridges: bayareafastrak.org . The two systems have separate rates.

Within 90 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Homeowners' exemption (if you bought a home)	The Homeowners' Exemption takes \$7,000 off your home's taxable value; the deadline for the full exemption is February 15. File through the online portal or at City Hall, Room 190. sf.gov filing page
☐ Renting? Check the San Francisco Rent Ordinance	Buildings built on or before June 13, 1979 generally have both rent control and eviction protection. The allowable annual increase for March 1, 2026 to February 28, 2027 is 1.6%. Rent Board counselor: 415-252-4600.
☐ Library card	San Francisco Public Library, free to California residents, in person with ID. See sfpl.org for the current ID and proof-of-address rules.
☐ Turkish citizens: consulate services	There is no consulate in San Francisco. The Turkish Consulate General in Los Angeles (Beverly Hills) serves all of California; appointments at konsolosluk.gov.tr

IF YOU ARE NOT A U.S. CITIZEN

- Never check "U.S. citizen" on any form, and never register to vote.
- Since January 1, 2026, adults 19 and older without a satisfactory immigration status can no longer newly enroll in full-scope Medi-Cal; new applicants in that group get restricted-scope coverage (emergency and pregnancy care only). Children and pregnant people are not affected. For uninsured adults, San Francisco's own Healthy San Francisco program is still running: you must be a San Francisco resident, 18 or older, uninsured, not eligible for Medi-Cal or Medicare, and at or below 500% of the federal poverty level (healthysanfrancisco.org).
- Since April 1, 2026, refugees, asylees, parolees and some other groups can no longer get federal CalFresh (food assistance); most green card holders remain eligible. New work requirements for some applicants also took effect June 1, 2026.
- Talk to an immigration attorney before applying for Medi-Cal, CalFresh or any public benefit: a new public charge rule has been in effect since September 18, 2026.
- Check your I-94 at i94.cbp.dhs.gov. Your license term and work authorization depend on it.
- With a green card application pending, do not travel abroad without advance parole.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN SAN FRANCISCO

Have a question about your immigration status?

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

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