

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · ST. PAUL

Driver Licenses in St. Paul: Two Cards, One Trade, 2026 Guide

The license is a state matter and St. Paul has no rule of its own here. This guide summarizes the state rule briefly and gives the space to the three questions that belong to someone booking the appointment from this city.

SHORT ANSWER

Driver licenses are **a state matter**, and St. Paul does not add a rule of its own. The state side in brief: on a standard card application the licensing department, Minnesota Department of Public Safety Driver and Vehicle Services, known as DVS, and its authorized agents **may not ask about your citizenship, immigration status or lawful presence**, no Social Security number is required, and statute requires that card to carry **no indicator or design relating to status**. But you cannot fly on that card. The card you can fly on is the federally compliant one, and **a federally compliant card 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**. The clause-by-clause breakdown is in our Minnesota guide; this guide deals with what belongs to someone applying from St. Paul.

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

We do not repeat these three sentences here, because they work identically everywhere in the state and we set them 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 next clause of the same section **puts a stamp** on the federally compliant card of a person with temporary lawful status; and a third section says that card expires **on the last day of your stay**, or one year after issuance if the last day is not identified. So a person who arrives on a visa and shows documents can receive a **shorter** card than someone who never documented status at all. Fees, the document list and the language of the test are all on the state side.

QUESTION	STANDARD CARD	FEDERALLY COMPLIANT CARD
Can status be asked at application	No , statute forbids it	Yes : proof of lawful status is requested
Any trace of status on the card	No , statute forbids it	On temporary status, a "temporary" stamp
Domestic flights and federal buildings	No	Yes
Is a Social Security number required	No, there is a declaration box	Depends on the status document
Validity	Four years	The last day of your lawful stay

QUESTION	STANDARD CARD	FEDERALLY COMPLIANT CARD
Fee	Identical	Identical

There is a third route, and for most newcomers it is the most comfortable one: **stay with the standard card and fly on your passport**. The card is for driving, the passport is for the airport. That is the simplest way to keep a card with no stamp on it and a usable travel document in the same wallet.

Three things this city adds

- **We print no counter address in this guide, and we say why.** Research could not reach the DVS exam station and authorized agent lists by any route; we **could not verify** the addresses of the exam stations and agents in Ramsey County. Rather than invent an address we say this: book through the DVS appointment system and confirm the location you are going to on the booking screen.
- **The ban is not absolute.** The no-questions rule applies only to the standard card; on a federally compliant card and on an enhanced license, **proof of lawful status is already requested and can be asked about**. Do not arrive at that desk unprepared.
- **The card is not delivered to a forwarded address.** If you set up mail forwarding while moving from one neighborhood to another inside the city, the card will not reach you. If the move and the appointment fall in the same week, decide in advance which address you want the card sent to.

HOW LONG CAN YOU DRIVE ON A TURKISH LICENSE: WE CANNOT ANSWER, AND WE SAY WHY

- We **could not read an official text showing that Minnesota grants a test exemption** to the holder of a valid foreign license, and we could not verify any reciprocity with Türkiye.
- **How many days** a newly arrived person may drive on a foreign license is in the same position. **We do not say there is none; we say research could not confirm one.**
- **We also could not verify that the knowledge test is offered in Turkish.** The department's language list did not open by any route.
- **A practical plan:** get an international driving permit before you leave Türkiye; the week you move, call DVS and ask **in writing** about your window and any exemption; and prepare for both tests as though no exemption exists. We collected every open question on this in [the foreign license section of the state guide](#).
- **One warning:** when you obtain a Minnesota license you may be asked to surrender another license or identification card you hold. If you have anything pending that depends on the physical Turkish license, settle it before the appointment.

Can you postpone the license in St. Paul

In this city the answer is largely yes, for two reasons: one of the region's two light rail lines, the **METRO Green Line**, terminates in this downtown and runs into the downtown across the river, and the region's intercity train station, **Union Depot**, is here as well. Plenty of people start with a monthly pass instead of rushing the license. Two things you cannot postpone. First, the **METRO Blue Line** that serves the airport does not come to this city, so you have to build a transfer into a flight morning. Second, **the winter parking**

rules do not care whether you own the car; a rented or borrowed vehicle gets towed too, and in this city the rule reads **the sign on the street rather than your house number.** The snow regime is 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 that carries no status indicator but cannot be used to fly, and a stamped federally compliant card.
- 2 Book through the DVS system** and confirm the location on screen; this guide gives no address.
- 3 If you have mail forwarding, sort out the card's address.** The card is not delivered to a forwarded address.
- 4 If you are going for the federally compliant card, bring your status document.** The no-questions rule does not operate at that desk.
- 5 Ask DVS about the language of the test,** not this guide, and ask for the answer in writing.
- 6 If you are on temporary status, put the expiry date in your calendar.** The card expires on the last day of your stay, so an error in your entry record goes straight onto your card.
- 7 Take your passport for flights.** The standard card is not an accepted document at the checkpoint.
- 8 Keep the address reporting duty separate from the license.** Giving your address to DVS does not satisfy the federal requirement.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN ST. PAUL

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