

CHECKLIST · TAMPA

Moving to Tampa, FL 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 two separate accounts, electric with Tampa Electric (TECO) and water with the City of Tampa, note (813) 274-8811 for trash, and enroll your children with Hillsborough County Public Schools. You have 30 days for a Florida driver's license, and 10 days for vehicle registration once you start a job or enroll a child in school. If you own your home, the homestead exemption deadline is March 1, and hurricane season means checking your zone at HCFL.gov/HEAT.

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.
☐ Started a job or enrolled a child in school?	Your 10-day window for vehicle registration has started, see below.

First week

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Electric (Tampa Electric, TECO)	Apply at tecoaccount.com or call (888) 223-0800. The deposit is generally about twice your average monthly bill; it can be waived through a credit review, prior TECO service history or a guarantor. If you do not have an SSN, call before you apply to ask which ID is accepted.

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Water and sewer (City of Tampa)	Apply through Tampa Connect (tampaconnect.com) or call (813) 274-8811; processing can take up to 5 business days. Every new account has a deposit; a letter of good credit history from another utility, submitted within 30 days, can waive it. If you do not have an SSN, call to ask which document is accepted.
☐ Trash and recycling	City of Tampa Solid Waste Customer Service: (813) 274-8811, weekdays 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; your collection day depends on your address. If you live in New Tampa, trash service comes from Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management, not the City: (813) 272-5680.
☐ School enrollment	Hillsborough County Public Schools, (813) 272-4000; new students register online.
☐ Library card	A Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative card (hcplc.org) needs a photo ID and proof of address; check the ID list at hcplc.org for which IDs are accepted.

Within 30 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Florida driver's license	Within 30 days of establishing residency. Exams are given in English only. flhsmv.gov/new-resident

Within 10 days (from starting a job or enrolling in school)

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Vehicle registration, title and Florida insurance	Minimum \$10,000 PIP plus \$10,000 PDL. At a Hillsborough County Tax Collector branch; a VIN verification may be required.
☐ SunPass account (if you will use toll roads)	SunPass Mini \$4.99 or PRO \$14.95, at SunPass.com .

Within 90 days and beyond

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Homestead exemption, if you own your home	Deadline every year is March 1; apply through the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser, County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd, 15th floor, (813) 272-6100.
☐ Hurricane preparedness	Find your evacuation zone (A-E) at HCFL.gov/HEAT . The zones were redrawn for the 2026 season, so do not rely on an old zone. Zone A is the most vulnerable and evacuates first, and it includes all mobile and manufactured homes countywide. Sign up for HCFL Alert for notifications.
☐ Turkish citizens: consulate services	Turkish Consulate General in Miami (about 280 miles), 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; only U.S. citizens may vote in Florida.
- Talk to an immigration attorney before applying for SNAP, Florida KidCare 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 TAMPA

Have a question about your immigration status?

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

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