



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

**DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

**ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**

600 New London Avenue

Cranston, RI 02920-3024

Phone: 401-462-4368

[www.dmv.ri.gov](http://www.dmv.ri.gov)

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## Answers to common questions about REAL ID

**1. What is REAL ID?**

**A:** The REAL ID Act was enacted by the federal government in 2005 in response to the 9/11 terror attacks. It establishes security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards.

**2. What is a REAL ID-compliant credential?**

**A:** A REAL ID-compliant driver's license or identification card is a credential that can be used for such activities as boarding a domestic flight or entering certain federal facilities based on the additional level of security it provides as to the identity of its holder.

**3. Who can get a REAL ID-compliant credential?**

**A:** Most individuals who can obtain a Rhode Island driver's license or ID, with some exceptions.

**4. Is getting a REAL ID-compliant credential mandatory? What if I do not want it?**

**A:** No. The DMV does not require anyone to obtain a REAL ID-compliant credential. The choice is entirely yours.

**5. When will a REAL ID-compliant credential be required?**

**A:** Beginning October 1, 2021, a REAL ID-compliant credential will be required for domestic air travel and entry into certain federal facilities.

**6. Do I have to get a REAL ID-compliant credential right away?**

**A:** **There is no need to rush to the DMV, especially if you have a valid U.S. passport.** Until someone reaches their renewal time, many people may not need to decide on the REAL ID option for months or years.

**7. Can I get a REAL ID-compliant credential online?**

**A:** No. Federal law requires that your first application for a REAL ID-compliant credential be made in person and you must bring all original required documents.



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After you've received your first REAL ID-compliant credential, you may renew online according to the standard schedule.

**8. How do I get a REAL ID-compliant credential?**

**A:** You must bring the required documents to the DMV or AAA (only if you're a AAA member and a U.S. citizen) when you renew your license. You need to bring these documents with you even if you've had a Rhode Island license or ID for many years. These include a document to prove your identity (such as a birth certificate or passport), a document to prove your Social Security number (such as your Social Security card, a W-2 or Form 1099); and two documents that prove your residency in Rhode Island (such as a mortgage statement, utility bill, property tax bill, or a current Rhode Island driver's license or identification card). A full list of the documents required to obtain a REAL ID-compliant credential can be found here: [REAL ID DOCUMENTS](#)

**9. I no longer have my birth certificate. How do I obtain a certified copy of my birth certificate?**

**A:** If you were born in Rhode Island, you may obtain a birth certificate at the [R.I. Department of Health](#) and at city and town halls in this state. For out-of-state birth certificates, please visit [our website](#) for convenient links to help you obtain your birth certificate from another state.

**10. If I don't want to obtain a REAL ID-compliant credential, what other forms of identification can be used for domestic air travel or entry into federal facilities?**

**A:** A valid U.S. passport will allow you to fly domestically and enter federal facilities. Please visit the [Department of Homeland Security](#) website for additional forms of identification that are acceptable for domestic air travel and entry into federal facilities.

**11. What if my name no longer matches my birth certificate or other proof of identity documentation?**

**A:** You must prove the change to your name with a marriage certificate, adoption decree, or other document issued by an authorized government agency.



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**12. My marriage certificate/divorce decree was issued in a foreign country.**

**Will it be accepted as legal proof of my name change?**

**A:** These documents will be accepted if they are accompanied by a certified translation of the document into English.

**13. Can I drive with a driver's license that is not REAL ID-compliant?**

**A:** Yes. A REAL ID-compliant credential is not required to drive any type of motor vehicle.

**14. Can I use a passport for travel and identity purposes?**

**A:** Absolutely. A valid U.S. passport will allow you to fly domestically. For a list of additional forms of identification that can be used to fly domestically, please visit the TSA website.

**15. How much does a REAL ID-compliant credential cost?**

**A:** A REAL ID-compliant credential costs the same as a standard Rhode Island license or identification card if you obtain it within 90 days or less of your regular time of renewal. It will cost \$27.50 to obtain it outside of your regular time of renewal.

**16. How does a REAL ID-compliant credential differ from a standard license or identification card?**

**A:** A REAL ID-compliant credential will be marked with a white star on a gold circle in the upper-right hand corner. A non-compliant driver's license or identification card will be marked with the legend "NOT FOR FEDERAL IDENTIFICATION".

**17. Can I get a REAL ID-compliant credential if I am not a U.S. citizen?**

**A:** Yes. Non-citizens can present documents such as a permanent resident card ("green card") or an employment authorization card (work permit) to prove their identity. They will also have to submit proof of a Social Security number or a proof of SSN denial AND two forms of proof of residency in Rhode Island.

**18. I just renewed my license and it expires after October 1, 2021. Do I have to pay again to get a REAL ID-compliant credential?**

**A:** You will only have to pay \$27.50 if you want a REAL ID-compliant credential before your next time of renewal. If you wait until your regular time of renewal, there will be no additional charge.



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**19. What is a standard driver's license/ID?**

**A:** Has these characteristics:

- Is a valid driver's license/ID
- Can be renewed online (every other renewal cycle) without going to the DMV
- Is NOT an acceptable form of identification to board a flight or access certain federal facilities after October 1, 2021
- Has **"NOT FOR FEDERAL IDENTIFICATION"** displayed on card

**20. Can I use a standard license after the 2021 deadline?**

**A:** Yes. Your standard license can be used to drive both before and after the 2021 deadline. You will need a passport, or other document accepted by TSA, to board a domestic flight.

**21. Will I be able to get my REAL ID-compliant credential the same day I apply?**

**A:** No. It will arrive in the mail several weeks after you apply in person. You will receive a temporary paper driver's license or identification that indicates you applied for a REAL ID-compliant credential.

**22. Will minors need a REAL ID card to fly domestically?**

**A:** Please visit the [TSA website](#) for information regarding air travel by minors.

**23. What if I already have a REAL ID-compliant credential issued from another state? Can I transfer it without having to bring in the additional documents?**

**A:** No. REAL ID-compliant credentials issued from another state cannot be converted into a Rhode Island REAL ID-compliant credential.

**24. I'm a Rhode Island resident on active duty and stationed out-of-state.**

**What do I need to know about getting a REAL ID-compliant credential? Do I even need one?**

**A:** Please visit the Department of Homeland Security [website](#) for information regarding alternate forms of acceptable identification for military personnel.