

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

December 2018

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?

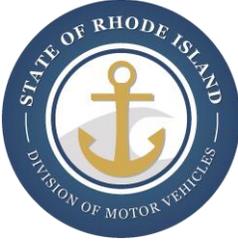
A: Beginning October 1, 2021, a REAL ID-compliant credential will be required for domestic air travel and entry into certain federal facilities.

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?

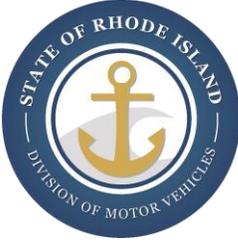
A: If you were born in Rhode Island, you may obtain a birth certificate at the [R.I. Department of Health](#) and at city and town halls in this state. For out-of-state birth certificates, please visit [our website](#) for convenient links to help you obtain your birth certificate from another state.

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?

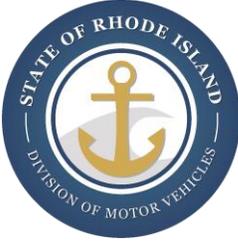
A: A REAL ID-compliant credential will be marked with a white star on a gold circle in the upper-right hand corner. A non-compliant driver's license or identification card will be marked with the legend "NOT FOR FEDERAL IDENTIFICATION".

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.