For Illinois residents who fly domestically, effective Oct. 1, 2021, the federal government will require you to use a valid U.S. passport or obtain a REAL ID from the Illinois Secretary of State’s office. Not every person needs a REAL ID card, which is why we offer you a choice. You decide if you need a REAL ID or standard DL/ID.

The application process for a REAL ID-compliant DL/ID requires enhanced security measures that meet mandated federal guidelines, even if you already have a standard DL/ID. As a result, you must provide documentation confirming your identity, Social Security number, residency and signature.

If you want to apply for a REAL ID, please come prepared with the necessary documents. Please visit our website at www.REALID.ilsos.gov and use the interactive document checklist to help ensure you bring in the right documents to the Driver Services facility. In addition, please be patient as the process takes longer at the facility due to the multiple documents required by the federal government.

Sincerely,

Jesse White
Secretary of State

For additional information:
833-503-4074
or visit:
REALID.ilsos.gov.

Know your options before choosing your next driver’s license or state ID card.
Know your options.

Make the choice that is right for you.

REAL ID goes into effect October 1, 2021.

Your current Illinois driver’s license or ID card (DL/ID) will be accepted at airports, military bases and secure federal facilities until Oct. 1, 2021. We are providing you with the choice either to obtain a REAL ID card or to keep a standard card. Take time to know your options.

You NEED a REAL ID if:
- You do not have a valid U.S. passport or passport card; AND
- You use airplanes as a mode of domestic transportation; or
- You visit military bases; or
- You visit secure federal facilities.

You DO NOT NEED a REAL ID if:
- You have a valid U.S. passport or passport card; or
- You do not use airplanes as a mode of domestic transportation; or
- You do not visit military bases; or
- You do not visit secure federal facilities.

Application Process for Standard Driver’s License or ID

If your DL/ID is currently valid and not expiring soon, you do not need to do anything.

STEP 1: If your DL/ID is expiring soon, visit a Secretary of State Driver Services facility and take your photo and the required exams.

STEP 2: Receive a temporary, secure paper DL/ID at the facility.

STEP 3: After review and verification of documents have been conducted, your new permanent standard DL/ID will be mailed to you within 15 business days.

Fees for a Real ID and a standard DL/ID are the same.

Application Process for REAL ID Driver’s License or ID

STEP 1: Visit a Secretary of State Driver Services facility and take your photo and the required exams.

STEP 2: All applicants must provide proof of identity. (Examples are: a certified U.S. birth certificate, a U.S. passport, an employment authorization document, a permanent resident card or a foreign passport with an approved I-94 form.) *Name change documents, such as certified copies of a marriage certificate, etc., will be required if the applicant presents a certified birth certificate with a name different from his/her current name. Please note: Multiple name change documents will be required if your name has changed multiple times.

STEP 3: All applicants must provide proof of full Social Security number (SSN). (Examples are: an SSN card, a W-2 or a pay stub with full SSN.)

STEP 4: All applicants must provide two current residency documents with the applicant's name. (Examples are: a utility bill, rental agreement, deed/title or bank statement.)

STEP 5: All applicants must provide proof of signature. (Examples are: a credit/debit card, canceled check or current Illinois DL/ID.)

STEP 6: Receive a temporary, secure paper DL/ID at the facility. *Please note that the TSA and federal agents will not accept the paper document.

STEP 7: After review and verification of documents have been conducted, your new permanent REAL ID card will be mailed to you within 15 business days.

For domestic travel, a U.S. passport or a REAL ID card is acceptable. For international travel, a U.S. passport is necessary.

For additional information about passports: npic@state.gov or 877-487-2778

*For a complete list of acceptable documents for steps 2-5, please visit: REALID.ilsos.gov