



REAL ID for Wish Families

What is REAL ID?

Passed by Congress in 2005, REAL ID is a coordinated effort by states, territories, and the federal government to improve the reliability and accuracy of state-issued identification documents, which should inhibit terrorists' ability to evade detection by using fraudulent identification. It ensures that consistent standards for the issuance of driver's licenses and state identification cards will be used by all states, and prohibits federal agencies, like TSA, from accepting licenses or ID cards that are not REAL ID compliant.

What does that mean for adult travelers?

Every air traveler over the age of 18 traveling on or after **May 7, 2025**, will need a REAL ID-compliant license/state ID, or another acceptable form of identification, to board commercial aircraft.

How do I know if I have a REAL ID compliant driver's license?

REAL ID compliant cards are generally marked with a star located at the top of the card. If you are not sure, contact your state driver's license agency for more information.

Generally, a star indicates it's a REAL ID:



Gold Star



Black Star



Star cutout
in gold circle



Star cutout
in black circle



Star cutout in
gold grizzly bear

How do I get a REAL ID and how much will it cost?

You will need to go to your state's driver's license agency in person to present documentation to verify who you are and where you live to get your REAL ID. To schedule an appointment in Illinois or learn about walk-in hours and locations, visit The Office of the Illinois Secretary of State's REAL ID webpage:

<https://realid.ilsos.gov/>.





What documents are required to get the REAL ID?

Visit your state's driver's licensing agency website to find out exactly what documentation is required to obtain a REAL ID.

At a minimum, you must provide documentation showing:

- Full legal name
- Date of birth
- Social security number
- Two documents providing proof of principal residence
- Lawful status

States may impose additional requirements, so check with your state's driver's licensing agency website before visiting them in person for additional guidance and assistance. Most likely, you will be asked to bring two documents for proof of residency (utility bills, bank statements, etc.); proof of identity and legal residence in the United States (a birth certificate, U.S. passport or permanent resident card); and a Social Security card (not just the number). A W-2 form listing your Social Security number is an acceptable alternative to a Social Security card.

Residents who have changed their name from what is on their birth certificate need to provide documentation of the change (for example, a marriage certificate or a court order granting the name change).

Are there other forms of identification that can be used for air travel if I don't have a REAL ID compliant license?

Yes, there are several other types of identification that will be accepted:

- U.S. passport
- U.S. passport card
- DHS trusted traveler card (Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI, FAST)
- U.S. Department of Defense ID, including IDs issued to dependents
- Permanent resident card
- Border crossing card
- DHS-designated enhanced driver's license
- Federally recognized, tribal-issued photo ID
- HSPD-12 PIV card
- Foreign government-issued passport
- Canadian provincial driver's license or Indian and Northern Affairs Canada card
- Transportation worker identification credential (TQIC)
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Employment Authorization Card (I-766)
- U.S. Merchant Mariner Credential

For more information about flying with a REAL ID, visit <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id>.