

# MA Driver's License Information Session

Hosted by Rian Immigrant Center, Irish Pastoral Centre  
and Consulate General of Ireland

## Important Contact numbers

Irish Pastoral Centre  
540 (Rear)  
Gallivan Blvd  
Boston, MA 02124

[www.ipcboston.org](http://www.ipcboston.org)  
617-265-5300

Consulate General of Ireland– Boston  
535 Boylston Street  
5th Floor  
Boston, MA 02116

[www.dfa.ie/boston](http://www.dfa.ie/boston)  
617-267-9330

RIAN Immigrant Center  
One State Street  
8th floor  
Boston, MA 02109

[www.riancenter.org](http://www.riancenter.org)  
617-542-7654

## Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles

### **RMV Website:**

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/work-and-family-mobility-act-wfma>

### **Dedicated Phone Line for WFMA Information:**

857-368-WFMA

The RMV has a dedicated information phone line for inquiries related to the Work and Family Mobility Act.

Call 857-368-WFMA (857-368-9362) to hear information on the new law that takes effect on July 1.

The information line is currently available in 6 different languages.

The RMV will add additional languages in the near future.



**Ard-Chonsalacht na hÉireann | Bostún**  
Consulate General of Ireland | Boston



ANSEO LE CHEILE - HERE TOGETHER

# DRIVING FAMILIES FORWARD



## APPLYING FOR A STANDARD MASSACHUSETTS DRIVER'S LICENSE under the Work & Family Mobility Act

Prepare and bring these documents with you\*



1. **ONE** of these, unexpired:

Passport

- Consular identification document



2. **ONE** of these, unexpired:

National identification document from country of nationality

- Birth certificate (original or "certified" copy, which is an official copy with a seal or stamp from the issuing government)

Driver's license (can be from US or from another country)

Marriage certificate or divorce decree (issued in the US only)



3. **ONE** document to show you live in Massachusetts. It must have your name and your Massachusetts address on it. Some examples of acceptable documents:

- A medical or hospital bill (not older than 60 days)
- A pay stub (not older than 60 days)
- A school document: official transcript or a tuition bill from the current year, or proof of enrollment (not older than 60 days)
- Insurance document from the current year: renter's, homeowners or auto insurance
- A letter from a government agency (can be state, federal or local)
- A current lease agreement A mortgage statement
- A utility bill (gas, electric, water)
- A bank statement or credit card statement (not older than 60 days)
- A telephone bill (not older than 60 days)



4. **ONE** of these:

If you have ever had a legal Social Security Number issued to you, even if it expired, you must provide the number.

If you have never had a Social Security Number, you can:

- Sign a document swearing that you do not have one during your in-person application date, or ahead of time before a notary.

Obtain a Social Security "denial letter" by going in person to a Social Security Administration office. Bring the letter with you to apply for a license, it cannot be more than 60 days older than the day you apply.



5. **"Certified" translations** of any documents that are not in English. Translations do not need to be notarized but do need to be certified by someone such as a bilingual teacher, a language services provider, a community organization, or a bilingual notary.

## THE PROCESS OF APPLYING

A standard (not "REAL ID") Massachusetts license is called a "Passenger (Class D)" license for a vehicle and "Class M" for a motorcycle. It costs \$115.

**TRANSFER LICENSES:** If you have a license from another U.S. state that is unexpired or has been expired for less than 1 year, you can "transfer" your license to Massachusetts after July 1st without taking a written or road test. In July, start your application and make an appointment online at <https://www.mass.gov/myrmv>. On your appointment day, take your documents with you. You will be able to get a Mass. license without a written or road test. You can also transfer a license from Mexico, Canada, S. Korea, Germany, France and Taiwan.

**NEW LICENSES:** If you are not transferring a license, you will have to get a learner's permit first. In July, start your application and make an appointment online at <https://www.mass.gov/myrmv>. On your appointment date, take your documents with you. You will have to pass a vision test. You will need to take a written test about the rules of the road, either at the RMV or at home.

Once you pass the written test, you will get a learner's permit, which allows you to practice driving. This is not your license yet. You will then make an appointment online to take your road test. A licensed driver must accompany you in their vehicle to take the road test. If you pass your road test, you will get your license!

## WHAT YOU CAN PREPARE NOW

Decide what documents you plan to present from the list on the other page.

Request any documents you need but don't have.

Renew any documents that are expired.

Get certified translations of documents that are not in English.

Pay any outstanding parking tickets, fines or fees.

Study for your written test. The drivers manual is available in multiple languages.

**<https://www.mass.gov/lists/drivers-manuals#massachusetts-driver's-manual->**

## DO THIS LATER

- Appointments are not yet available to apply for a license or permit. As soon as they become available, make an appointment online at **<https://www.mass.gov/myrmv>** for July 1 onward to submit your application in person at an RMV service center.
- Get or print out a residency document, checking to make sure it's not older than 60 days from your appointment day.

For updates, check:

Facebook @ DrivingFamiliesForward Twitter @ DrivingMA4ward

Source: MIRAandDrivingFamiliesForwardCoalition mira.org/  
For updates, check:  
Facebook @ DrivingFamiliesForward Twitter @ DrivingMA4ward

#### Getting a license under the WFMA: Frequently Asked Questions

Can I make an appointment before July 1?

You need an appointment to present your identification to get a permit, but it's not yet clear when these appointments will go live. You don't need an appointment to register a vehicle.

Do I have to get a permit before I get a license?

Yes, unless you are transferring your license from another U.S. state or from a small set of countries that have a special agreement with the US (Canada, Mexico or the U.S. Territories, South Korea, Germany, France, Taiwan).

What type of license will I get?

You will get a Class D license, which allows you to drive a passenger vehicle, van, or small truck. You can also get a Class M license to drive a motorcycle.

Can I get a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) if I am undocumented?

No. You need to show proof of lawful immigration status to get a CDL.

How much will I have to pay?

At present, it costs \$115 to get a license and another \$60 to register a car. However, the timing of the payments to get a license depends on whether or not you're converting an out-of-state license. If you're starting from scratch in Massachusetts, you have to pay separately for a permit application (\$30), a license/application road test (\$35), and the license itself (\$50). Converting an out-of-state license is one \$115 payment.

When I go to get my driver's license, will I get my permanent driver's license while I am in the office?

RMV staff will provide you with a paper license that is valid for 60 days when you are in the office. The wallet-sized plastic card that is valid for five years as your driver's license should arrive in the mail within two weeks. (But you don't get a license until you go through the whole process, including passing the road test if you need to.)

Can I get a license if I am under 18?

Yes, but there are special requirements for being able to take the road test, like taking a driver education course. You will eventually obtain something called a "Junior Operator License."

Can I get a license if I have previously been deported?

Yes, but immigration enforcement authorities may be interested in finding you through the RMV database, and the Attorney General has yet to finalize the information-sharing protocols for driver info. If you have specific questions regarding your situation, talk to an immigration lawyer!

What do I have to do if I have a license in another state?

You have to prove your identity, SSN or lack thereof, and Massachusetts residency. You need to bring your out-of-state license, which you will give up. You will not have to take the road test.

I don't have lawful immigration status but driving isn't for me. Can I get a non-driver ID?

Unfortunately not. The Work and Family Mobility Act (WFMA) enables undocumented MA residents only to obtain a driver's license, not a non-driver ID.

Can I bring someone with me to the RMV to help translate?

Source: MIRAandDrivingFamiliesForwardCoalition [mira.org/](http://mira.org/)  
For updates, check:  
Facebook @ DrivingFamiliesForward Twitter @ DrivingMA4ward

Yes. You can bring someone to help translate to an office appointment. Your sponsor for the road test can translate for you—but shouldn't coach you on what to do. However, you should not bring a translator in addition to the sponsor for your road test.

I got an SSN when I had work authorization but I don't have work authorization anymore. Do I still need to provide it?

Yes. You will need to write that number on your application.

Do I need my physical social security card?

No. If you had a SSN in the past, just providing the number is enough.

I don't have an SSN. Should I provide my ITIN?

No. You should not provide your ITIN. You will have to provide proof that you don't have a Social Security Number.

Can I get a license if I got stopped for driving without a license?

Yes, but you will have to resolve any outstanding fines and address any outstanding issues (e.g. a citation that was not responded to) before you can get a license. The stop for driving without a license will remain on your record.

If you have an unaddressed issue or suspended license in another state and are trying to transfer your license, that will prevent you from getting a license in Massachusetts.

Will my license look different or reveal that I'm undocumented?

No! Massachusetts residents without lawful immigration status will be eligible for the same "standard" license that over half of drivers currently have. It will not look any different or have different information on it.

Will my information get to immigration enforcement?

While we cannot guarantee anything, we have been told by the RMV that ICE cannot directly access the RMV database, and the RMV does not share copies of identity documents. The Attorney General's Office is currently working on regulations to keep drivers' information safe from immigration enforcement authorities. We will let you know when we know more about the final policies from the Attorney General.

I have lawful immigration status. Can I apply for a driver's license using a pair of identity documents from the Work and Family Mobility Act?

Yes! Whether or not you have lawful immigration status, you can get a standard license—but not a REAL ID—with a pair of documents from the Work and Family Mobility Act. You can get a REAL ID license only if you present a document that shows that you currently have lawful immigration status.

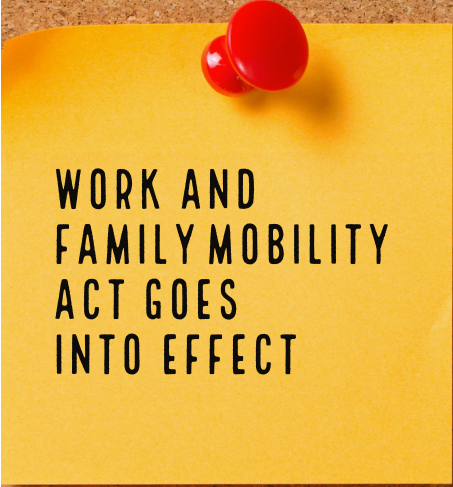
I have lawful immigration status, but it is set to expire less than five years from now. Can I still get a five-year license?

Yes! You can get a standard license that lasts for five years. You can also get a REAL ID license, but your REAL ID license will expire when your status expires.


My passport and/or consular ID have expired, and I am not able to renew it. Can I get a license?

Unfortunately, no. The law requires an unexpired passport or consular ID. Work with a trusted community group to reach see if they can help you obtain that from your country of origin.

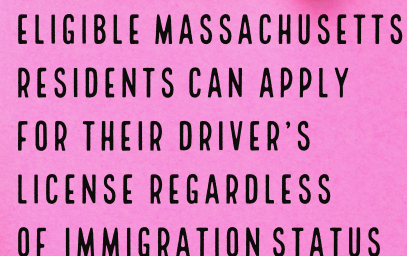




WORK AND  
FAMILY MOBILITY  
ACT GOES  
INTO EFFECT



JULY 1, 2023



ELIGIBLE MASSACHUSETTS  
RESIDENTS CAN APPLY  
FOR THEIR DRIVER'S  
LICENSE REGARDLESS  
OF IMMIGRATION STATUS

To renew your Irish passport visit  
[www.dfa.ie/passportonline](http://www.dfa.ie/passportonline)

Irish birth certificates can be ordered online by visiting  
[certificates.ie](http://certificates.ie)

If you have any questions, contact the Consulate General  
of Ireland, Boston at 617-267-9330 or visit  
[www.dfa.ie/Boston](http://www.dfa.ie/Boston)



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