How do I get a REAL ID driver’s license or identification card?
South Carolina citizens who are interested in getting a REAL ID driver's license or identification card may avoid any potential future rush by bringing their required documents to any SCDMV branch across the state. Once your documents are on file, you may be eligible to purchase your REAL ID license online without having to return to the SCDMV.

You will not be able to order a REAL ID license online until 2018.

When available, go to www.scdmvonline.com and order your REAL ID license. You will confirm we have the correct address online. You will be asked a few questions that confirm you are who you say you are. You will be able to pay online with a valid credit card.

The SCDMV will use your current photograph and mail your new REAL ID license. When you receive it, you must destroy your old license immediately.

REAL ID identification cards and CDLs will not be available online. You must visit an SCDMV branch to get one.

Where can I learn more?
To learn more about REAL ID, visit www.dhs.gov/real-id-public-faqs

It’s important to note that individual federal facilities, including military installations, may have different security measures and accepted forms of identification may vary. You should contact the facility before visiting to learn what forms of ID will be accepted.

In the future, you will need a REAL ID (or another federally approved form of identification) to board a commercial flight even within the US. You must still have a valid US Passport to travel internationally.

For a complete list of identification accepted by the TSA, visit www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification.

Do I need a REAL ID?
What is REAL ID?
What do I need to get a REAL ID?
Can I keep my current license? What’s the difference?
Learn more at www.scdmvonline.com

South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles
PO Box 1498
Blythewood, SC 29016
803-896-5000
www.scdmvonline.com
What is REAL ID?
The United States Congress passed the REAL ID Act of 2005 as a result of the 9/11 Commission’s recommendation to standardize government-issued identifications, like driver’s licenses. This is a federal law that affects federal agencies, federal buildings, and military bases. If you live in a non-compliant state, your state-issued license or ID will not be accepted to enter certain federal facilities in the future.

On and after October 1, 2020, a REAL ID license or ID, or another form of federally approved identification, such as a valid US Passport or military ID, will be required to:
- Board a commercial flight (even within the US),
- Enter a military base, and
- Visit a federal building that requires ID to be shown at the door.

Do I have to get a REAL ID?
No. Under the new REAL ID law in SC, you have the option to get a REAL ID driver's license or identification card or to keep your current, unexpired non-compliant version.

Does my child need a REAL ID to board a plane?
The TSA does not require children to have a REAL ID when flying with an adult who has a REAL ID.

If you choose to purchase a REAL ID identification card for your child, you must submit your child’s government-issued birth certificate, proof of social security number, and two proofs of address. The ID is $5 if your child is between 5 and 16 years old.

You do not need a REAL ID to

Apply for or receive federal benefits
VOTE
DRIVE
Access Hospitals
Visit the Post Office
Access Federal Courts

If you do not plan on entering a military base, flying, or visiting a federal building that requires ID, you will not need a REAL ID.

If my driver’s license expires before REAL IDs are available, do I have to pay to renew my license and pay again to get a REAL ID?
Yes. You must renew your driver’s license when it expires. Do not drive with an expired license. It is $25 to change a regular (Class D) license to a REAL ID. Your REAL ID license will be valid for eight years.

It is optional and voluntary to change your current license or ID to a REAL ID license or ID. If you know you want to change to a REAL ID license, you will pay for the new license when you switch to a REAL ID license.

When can I get a REAL ID?
The SCDMV will begin issuing REAL ID driver’s licenses and identification cards in 2018.

How do I prepare to get a REAL ID?
You must bring to an SCDMV branch, original or certified copies (notarized) of your proof of identity/date of birth/US citizenship, proof of social security number, two proofs of current SC address, and documents supporting any legal name change(s).

The most common examples of the documents required are:
- Birth certificate or valid US Passport,
- Social security card or W-2,
- Your current, unexpired SC license or ID and a less than 90-day-old water bill, and
- Marriage license, divorce decree, or court order (if name has legally changed).

A complete list of the documents the SCDMV will accept is on the United States Citizens’ Checklist (SCDMV Form MV-93).

The requirements for international customers are different. For a complete list of documents for international customers, see the International Customers’ Checklist (SCDMV Form MV-94). You can find these forms online at www.scdmvonline.com.

If you received your first SC beginner’s permit, license, or ID in or after November 2010, the SCDMV should have your documents on file. If you think you may fall into this category, call 803-896-5000 to check the status of your documents.