

Texas Foster Youth Justice Project

www.texasfosteryouth.org

(877) 313-3688

Getting a Texas State ID Card

An ID card won't let me drive. Why would I want one?

You want one because having a state-issued photo ID makes getting all kinds of documents that you do want much (much!) easier. It makes getting a copy of your social security card easier. It makes getting copies of your birth certificate and other legal documents easier. When you do go in to get your driver's license, it will make that process easier. It makes applying for a job easier. Once you have a piece of valid state-issued photo ID, dealing with almost any bureaucracy gets slightly less complicated.

How do I get a Texas ID card?

You must go to any Texas Department of Public Safety office with your parent or legal guardian and bring:

- Proof of your identity
- \$15

When you go to the driver's license office, tell the attendant why you are there. They will give you the required form to fill out and tell you what to do.

Who can go with me to get my Texas State ID Card?

If you are under 18, you must have a parent or legal guardian with you the first time you go to get an ID card. This is because they must sign the form in the driver's license office.

- If you are under the managing conservatorship of the state, talk with your caseworker about who can go with you to the office and sign on behalf of the state as your legal guardian.

What can I use to prove my identity?

You can prove your identity by bringing EITHER:

- One piece of "primary" identification.
 - "Primary" identification means a current passport, or a current driver's license or identification card issued by the state of Texas.

OR

- Two pieces of "secondary" identification. "Secondary" identification means:
 - Certified copy of your birth certificate.
 - Certified copy of a court order that clearly states your name and your date of birth.
 - Current valid photo ID (other than a passport) issued by the federal government, another state, or a Canadian province.

OR

- One piece of "secondary" identification (see above) and two or more pieces of "supporting" identification. "Supporting" identification can include:
 - School records.
 - Insurance records or cards.

- Medical records.
- Prison or military identification cards.
- Expired photo ID issued by the federal government or a state.
- Foreign passport.
- Other official papers that help prove that you are who you say you are and that you were born where you say you were born.
- There is a helpful chart with information about the identification requirements and a brochure you can print out at www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/identificationrequirements.htm.

If I am in foster care, what do I need to show to prove I live in Texas?

You will need to complete the *Texas Residency Affidavit (DPS Form DL-5)*. The form must be signed by both the applicant and a representative such as the foster parent, residential child-care provider, or kinship caregiver.

- The person certifying the residential address must accompany the applicant and provide acceptable proof of residency documents. For a complete list of acceptable documents that will be accepted to verify Texas residency, click on Resident Documents at www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/residencyReqNonCDL.htm. The 2nd page of the affidavit lists the requirements of the affidavit and when the person signing it must accompany you— read it carefully. Some examples are below. If you have questions on the affidavit, you can contact your local DPS office. Click on Find a Driver License Office at www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/.
 - If you live with a foster parent, the foster parent must accompany you and you must provide two acceptable residency documents and the signed affidavit. The foster parent must present a valid driver license or identification card.
 - Any foster youth who lives in a residential child-care setting may present a notarized letter or a notarized *Texas Residency Affidavit* affirming that he/she receives mail and services at that address.
 - A residential child-care provider does not have to accompany the applicant or provide proof of residency documents if a notarized letter or affidavit is presented. Click [here](#) for a sample of a notarized letter verifying your address.
 - You can click [here](#) for a detailed list to show [Verification of Texas Residency](#).

If I am not in foster care, what do I need to show to provide I live in Texas?

You will need two documents that show your name and Texas address that show you have lived there for 30 days. See www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/residencyReqNonCDL.htm for more information about the Resident requirements and click on Resident Documents for a list of acceptable documents.

If you do not have two documents that show your name and Texas address, you will need to complete a *Texas Residency Affidavit (DPS Form DL-5)* that is also signed by the person you live with or a representative of a nonprofit or agency that provides services to you. The 2nd page of the affidavit lists the requirements of the affidavit and when the person signing it must accompany you— read it carefully.

Some of the links above are not working.

- The sites are continually changing so if you are having issues reaching one of the links listed above, check the Texas Department of Public Safety webpage at <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/>. If you are still having issues, please contact us toll free at 877-313-3688.

If you are or were a foster youth and have problems or questions about getting your Texas ID, you can call us toll free at 877-313-3688.