

What Is Real ID?

The REAL ID Act of 2005 establishes minimum security standards for license issuance and production and prohibits Federal agencies from accepting for certain purposes driver licenses and identification cards from states not meeting the Act's minimum standards. **Beginning May 7, 2025, all persons must have a REAL ID license for accessing Federal buildings that are already requiring ID for entrance, entering nuclear facilities, military bases and boarding federally regulated commercial aircraft.**

You will need to present the following documents when applying for a REAL ID:

- Proof to establish citizenship or legal presence
- Proof of your name change no matter when it was changed or if it is what is on your current license. (certified copy of your marriage license)
- Two proofs of Tennessee residency (see additional list)

*You should also be prepared to provide documentation of any name changes that may have occurred. i.e. Maiden name to married name you need a certified copy of your marriage certificate. Court order that legally changed your name in that document. A divorce decree doesn't change your name unless it is stated in the actual decree that your name will be changed to a different name.

All legal documents must be certified. No photocopies will be accepted.

View the complete [list of document options](#) to apply for a REAL ID compliant credential.

These documents will be required even if you are already a Tennessee license or ID holder and are applying for a REAL ID compliant credential for the first time or if you are a new Tennessee resident and were previously issued a REAL ID in a different state.