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# REAL ID

## IN CALIFORNIA:

### What You Need to Know



In 2005, Congress passed the REAL ID Act, in response to the events of September 11, 2001, as a way to create more secure driver licenses (DL) and identification cards (ID). The Act established new minimum security standards for DL/ID card issuance and production, and requires stricter documentation to guarantee the identity of the person on the card.

Beginning October 1, 2020, the federal government will require all DL/IDs to be REAL ID compliant in order to be used as identification when entering military bases, most federal facilities and boarding domestic flights.

Californians will have the option to apply for either a REAL ID DL/ID card, or apply for a federal non-compliant DL/ID card. The California DMV is currently offering both. REAL ID compliant DL/ID cards allow those Californians who want to continue to use their DL/ID as identification when entering military bases, most federal facilities and boarding domestic flights. The federal non-compliant DL/ID option consists of all DL/ID cards other than REAL ID compliant DL/ID cards.

This brochure will provide you with more information regarding California's REAL ID DL/ID. Understanding how to apply for this new DL/ID, what documents are necessary to obtain one, as well as the other options available, will help expedite the process of getting your new REAL ID DL/ID.

For more information, please contact my district office.

## WHAT IS THE REAL ID?

On January 22, 2018, California began offering REAL ID DL/IDs that follow the security measures of the federal REAL ID Act. These new DL/IDs feature a special marking in the top right corner of the card. The marking is the California grizzly bear with a star.

If you do not apply for a REAL ID DL/ID at a DMV Field Office, you will receive a federal non-compliant DL/ID. This DL/ID provides all the benefits of the compliant DL/ID, except you cannot use it when entering military bases, most federal facilities and boarding domestic flights beginning October 1, 2020. This non-compliant DL/ID will feature the words "Federal Limits Apply" in the top right corner.

### You will not need a REAL ID to:

- Drive
- Apply for or receive federal benefits
- Enter a federal building that does not require identification
- Visit a hospital
- Participate in law enforcement proceedings

If you have a valid U.S. passport or U.S. passport card, a military ID or another form of federally-approved identification, you may use one of these in place of a REAL ID.

*Important: Check with the federal facility/military base before you visit to verify their identification requirements.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DMV

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE REAL ID IN CALIFORNIA?

All U.S. citizens and all legal residents of the United States can apply for a REAL ID DL/ID. Minors under the age of 18 are also eligible for a REAL ID, but will not be required to have a REAL ID to fly.

## HOW DO I GET A REAL ID DL/ID?

In order to apply for your REAL ID card:

- Visit your local DMV field office.
- Appointments are recommended but not mandatory.
- Provide proof of your identity (certified birth certificate, U.S. passport, etc.).
- Present proof of your Social Security number.
- Show a California residency document (i.e. utility bill).
- If applicable, bring a certified name change document (marriage certificate, divorce decree, etc.) if your name has been changed.

*Only original documents or certified copies will be accepted.*



## VETERAN DESIGNATION

Effective November 12, 2015, eligible veterans have the opportunity to add the word "VETERAN" to the front of their DL/ID card to indicate that they have served in the U.S. Military.

For veterans who would like to get this Veteran Designation on their REAL ID, please follow the steps below:

- Bring your DD-214 to a local County Veteran Service Office to obtain a Veteran Status Verification Form.
- Bring your Veteran Status Verification Form to the DMV and include this with the documents required for your REAL ID.
- There will be an additional \$5 fee for a Veteran Designation on your DL/ID.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DMV

## ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 60

With the passage of AB 60, California joined many other states that allow undocumented immigrants to apply for a driver license if they can show accepted proof of identification and residency in the state. By law, no one may discriminate against a holder of an AB 60 license, or use this license to attempt to question the holder's citizenship or immigration status.

Undocumented immigrants who are California residents will receive the federal non-compliant DL.

### This federal non-compliant DL:

- May **NOT** be used for identification purposes.
- **MAY** be used to drive anywhere throughout the state of California.
- Cannot be used against the license holder to determine their immigration status or citizenship, or detain them in any way for reasons other than valid traffic violations.
- May **NOT** be used to purchase firearms and ammunition without satisfactory proof of legal presence.

## F.A.Q.'S

### 1. Is the REAL ID mandatory?

The REAL ID DL/ID is not mandatory. The alternative is a federal non-compliant DL/ID option.

### 2. Then why would I get a REAL ID if it is not required?

Without a REAL ID, you will need to carry another form of identification to board a domestic flight or enter a federal facility that requires ID. Also, military bases require two forms of identification without a REAL ID.

### 3. How much does the REAL ID cost?

The cost of the REAL ID is the same as the current cost of a California DL/ID.

### 4. Do I need to get a REAL ID DL/ID right away?

No. Valid California DL/ID will be accepted for domestic flights and entrance to secure federal buildings until October 1, 2020. Some military bases, however, have been enforcing the new security requirements since January 22, 2018.

## RESOURCES

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)  
[www.DHS.gov/real-id](http://www.DHS.gov/real-id)

California DMV – REAL ID  
[www.REALID.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.REALID.dmv.ca.gov)

Transportation Security Administration (TSA)  
[www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov)