

Massachusetts Driver's License / Massachusetts Identification Card

DRIVER'S LICENSE

In order to obtain a Massachusetts driver's license, you must go to a Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) office and take a written test in order to obtain a "learner's permit." You must later take a road test (driving test) in order to get the actual driver's license. For information on Massachusetts driving regulations, consult the handbook available at branch offices of the RMV or on the RMV web site: <http://www.mass.gov/rmv/dmanual/>.

The Registry of Motor Vehicles Web site <http://www.mass.gov/rmv> has a list of branch offices and current wait times. Please note that some locations only provide limited services (this is noted on the web site). The addresses of two branch offices are listed below:

- Boston: Liberty Tree Building, 630 Washington St. (Chinatown, Orange Line)
- Watertown: 550 Arsenal Street

Both of these locations are open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. On Thursdays, they have extended hours and are open from 8:30 a.m. until 7 p.m. For information related to Massachusetts RMV, please call its phone center at (617) 351-4500 between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. The phone center offers only pre-recorded messages.

You must take at least three acceptable forms of identification when you go to the RMV: your passport and I-94 card, your Form I-20 or DS-2019, and one document showing proof of Massachusetts residency. Acceptable proof of Massachusetts residency includes a lease, a bank statement or a checkbook, or a utility bill that shows your name and address. You must also present your Social Security card.

If you do not have a Social Security Number and you are not eligible to obtain one, the Social Security Administration (SSA) will give you a letter stating that you are ineligible. Once you have obtained a letter from the SSA stating that you are ineligible for a Social Security Number take your passport, your I-94 card, your Form I-20 or DS-2019, proof of Massachusetts residency, and the SSA letter to the RMV. Social Security Administration Offices are located at:

- Davis Square: 240 Elm St., Marks Building, Somerville, open 9-4
- North Station: 10 Causeway St., Thomas P. O'Neill Building, Room 148, 1st floor, Boston, open 9-4.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you have difficulties in obtaining a Massachusetts driver's license.

IDENTIFICATION CARDS

In order to obtain a Massachusetts Identification Card or a Massachusetts Liquor Identification Card, you must go to the Registry of Motor Vehicles with the same forms of identification listed under Driver's License. You will pay a \$15.00 fee for the Massachusetts ID card or \$25.00 for the Massachusetts Liquor ID card and be given an application to complete. The Registry of Motor Vehicles will then issue you a card with your photo on it to be used for identification purposes in Massachusetts. You must be at least 21 years of age to obtain a Liquor ID in Massachusetts. Please note that restaurants, bars, etc. are legally permitted to exercise their own discretion in deciding whether or not to accept the Massachusetts ID card as proof of age. For more information call either customer service at (617) 351-9580 or general information at (617) 351-4500, or refer to RMV's web site: <http://www.mass.gov/rmv/license/3id.htm>



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