ID Cards in North Carolina

If you don’t have another form of photo identification, such as a driver’s license, a NC identification card can be used for things such as opening a bank account or getting a job. The North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles makes it easy for you to apply for an ID card, pay fees, renew your ID Card, replace your ID Card, or change your name or address.

North Carolina ID Card Eligibility

You can be of any age to apply for a NC ID card. To be eligible, you must:

- Not have a current driver’s license.
- Must be a resident of North Carolina.
- Be able to prove your identity, SSN and NC residency.

If you have just moved to North Carolina, you can apply for an ID card as long as you have proof of your NC address, such as utility bills, a rental agreement, and your vehicle registration card.

Apply for an ID Card in North Carolina

The North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) does not allow you to apply for an ID Card online or by mail. To apply, you must visit any North Carolina Driver’s License office in person and bring:

- 2 forms of identification, such as your:
  - Valid ID (including out-of-state ID).
  - Passport.
  - Birth certificate (original or certified copy only).
- Proof of your Social Security number, such as your:
  - Social Security card.
  - Tax forms from the IRS.
  - Payroll record.
- Proof of your North Carolina residency, such as your:
  - Vehicle registration card.
  - Utility bills.
  - Rental agreement or mortgage statement.

For a complete list of approved documents, please visit the North Carolina DMV website.

North Carolina ID Card Fees

You will need to pay a $10 fee to get your ID card in North Carolina. Your NC identification card will be valid for:
8 years, if you are 18 years old–65 years old.
5 years, if you are 66 years old or older.

NC DMV offices will only take cash, money orders, or personal checks for payments. Debit and credit cards are not accepted.

You may be exempt from the fee if you:

- Are legally blind.
- Are over 70 years old.
- Are homeless. If you are homeless, you must have a letter from the director of a facility that provides care for homeless people verifying that you are homeless.
- Have had your driver’s license canceled due to a physical or mental disability or disease.

No-Fee ID Card Program

After January 1, 2014, you will be able to apply for a free NC ID card to be used for voting. To qualify, you will need to:

- Prove your age and identity.
- Prove your NC residency.
- Be registered to vote in North Carolina.
- Not have a valid driver license.

This form of NC ID card will be valid for voting and for identification purposes only. You will apply using the same documents (proof of name, birth date, Social Security, and residency) as listed above.

Renew or Replace Your NC ID Card

Renew Your NC ID Card

You must renew your North Carolina ID card in person at any NC Driver’s License Office. You cannot renew your ID card online or by mail.

The North Carolina DMV will send you a reminder in the mail to let you know your NC ID card is expiring. You will need to bring with you to the Driver’s License Office:

- Your current or expired ID card, or proof of your identity (e.g. original or certified copy of your birth certificate, certified marriage certificate, or passport).
- Proof of your Social Security number (e.g. Social Security card, tax forms from the IRS, or payroll record).
- Payment for the $10 fee.

For a complete list of approved documents, please visit the North Carolina DMV website.
Replace Your ID Card

If your identification card is lost, damaged, or stolen, you may order a duplicate online or by going to your local NC DMV office.

Online

To replace your NC ID card online you must have:

- A valid Social Security number on file with the DMV.
- Your ID card number and date of birth.
- An email address.
- A Visa, MasterCard or Discover card to pay the $10 fee.

You will need to request a PIN, which will be sent to your email address. You must have this PIN in order to begin your application for a duplicate ID card online.

If you have a suspended license or outstanding debt with the DMV, you cannot order a duplicate ID online.

In Person

To replace your NC ID card in person, you must bring 2 documents proving your identity, such as your:

- Birth certificate (original or certified copy only).
- Social Security card (original only).
- Passport.

Change Your NC ID Card Information

Change Your Name

If you need to change your name on your ID card, the NC DMV requires you to first change your name with the Social Security Administration. After 24–36 hours, you can go to your local North Carolina DMV and order a duplicate ID card with your new name. You cannot change your name online or by mail.

You will need to bring in a proof of your name change, such as:

- Marriage license.
- Divorce papers.
- Court order.

Change Your Address
You can change your address on your NC ID card **online or in person** at your local DMV office. You cannot change your address by mail.

**Online**

To change your address online, you must have:

- A valid **ID card**.
- A valid **Social Security number** on file with the DMV.
- Your **ID card number** and **date of birth**.
- An **email address**.
- A **Visa, MasterCard** or **Discover** card to pay the $10 fee.

You will need to request a PIN, which will be sent to your email address. You must have this PIN in order to begin your application for a duplicate ID card online.

NOTE: If you have a suspended license or outstanding debt with the DMV you cannot order a duplicate ID online.

Visit the DMV's [Duplicate License Request online portal](#) to get started.

**In Person**

To change your address in person, you must bring to a North Carolina DMV office:

- Your **current or expired ID card**, or **proof of your identity** (e.g. original or certified copy of your birth certificate, certified marriage certificate, or passport).
- Payment for the $10 fee.

You may visit the NC DMV's website for a complete list of approved proof-of-identity documents.