You must choose whether you want to get a REAL ID or not. A REAL ID card will have a gold star on it and can be used to board airplanes or enter secure federal facilities.

Without a REAL ID, you must have another federally approved identification, such as a valid US Passport or military ID, and show it to pass security at airports nationwide or enter secure federal facilities. You do not need a REAL ID if you are a first-time SC beginner’s permit, driver’s license, or identification card (ID) to do any of the following: drive; vote; access hospital care; enter non-secured federal facilities such as a post office; receive federal benefits for which you are entitled (Social Security Administration’s SSA); or participate in law enforcement investigations or proceedings. Regardless of what choice you make, the cost of a South Carolina REAL ID is the same as a beginner’s permit, license, or ID that is not a REAL ID.

These requirements are for someone who is applying for a first-time SC beginner’s permit, driver’s license, or ID; or was previously licensed in SC and is returning after being issued a license or ID in another state; or when a beginner’s permit, license, or ID has been expired for more than nine months. If you previously held an SC card, you will not need to provide your identity and SSN documents again if a copy of those documents can be located in SCDMV’s files, but you are required to provide at least one updated document with your current address. Please use this checklist as a reference.

A. You must surrender any driver’s license, beginner’s/learner’s permit, or ID issued by another state. If a non-commercial license or ID was lost or stolen, you must provide a certified copy of your driving record from the state that issued the driver’s license, beginner’s permit, or ID. However, a CDL holder must get a replacement license from his state of record and surrender it to SC.

B. You must provide the following original (not photocopies) documents unless otherwise stated. All documents are subject to verification. This list is subject to change at the SCDMV’s discretion. Documents not in English must be translated by a qualified translator. The translator must have a letter of verification from their employer on letterhead qualifying them as a translator. The translation must be made on the Translation Document (SCDMV form 4030).

1. Proof of SC address must show your name and current SC address of residence (not PO Box). Below are two options you have based on the number of proof of address documents you provide.
   • Two proofs of address are required if you are interested in getting a REAL ID beginner’s permit, driver’s license, or identification card. You must provide two items from the categories listed below and each item should be from a different organization. Both proofs of address must show the same address.
   • Only one proof of address is required if you prefer to have a driver’s license, permit, or ID that has “NOT FOR FEDERAL IDENTIFICATION” printed across the front of it. You will not be issued a REAL ID.

2. Proof of Social Security Number (SSN) - You must provide one of the following and it must show your name and entire SSN:
   a) Social security card.
   b) SSA-1099 – “Social Security Benefit Statement”.
   c) SSA non-1099 form.
   d) Payroll stub must include your name and the employer’s name.
   e) W-2 Form must include employer’s name, address, and your name. Replace a lost or stolen social security card online https://www.ssa.gov/online/resolve/

3. Proof of US Citizenship/Proof of Identity and Date of Birth - You must provide one of the following:
   a) Birth certificate with birth/file, book, page or tracking number and registrar’s signature issued by the county or the Vital Records Office.
   – Birth certificate from US territory (must be translated if not in English) American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico (issued after June 30, 2010), and the US Virgin Islands.
   – Delayed birth certificate. If your birth certificate was not issued at time of birth, you can apply for your birth certificate from the Vital Records Office.
   b) Unexpired US Passport or US Passport Card.
   c) Certificate of US Naturalization (USCIS Form (N-550 or N-570).
   e) Certificate of Citizenship (N-560 or N-561).

If your birth certificate shows that you were not born in the United States, you must also provide an additional document from the above list to prove US citizenship.

4. Legal Documents Supporting Name Change(s)

If your name has changed since birth, you have two options:
   a) Provide a valid unexpired US Passport or US Passport Card in your current legal name as your identity document instead of the other documents listed in #3 above.
   b) Provide the legal document(s) of your name change(s) linking your name on your identity document (see #2 above) to your present day name. These are examples of legal documents that might support a legal name change: adoption records, copy of marriage certificate or license issued by state county records office, certificate of naturalization, and court ordered name change. A divorce decree can be used as a name change document if there is a section where the judge ordered your name to be changed.

Records are available for SC marriages between July 1950 and December 2014 at the Vital Records Office. Contact the probate court that originally issued the marriage license if married before or after these dates.

Your name must be updated with the Social Security Administration (SSA) first before the SCDMV is required to verify that your name matches SSA’s files before issuing a credential.

You have one opportunity at the time of marriage to change your middle and/or last name. You may not change your name again to a different variation of the married name without a court order.

5. Automobile Liability insurance information from a company licensed to do business in SC only if you are applying for a driver’s license.

If you are from a US territory, you must successfully complete the vision, knowledge, and skills tests when applying for commercial driver’s license.