You must choose whether you want to get a REAL ID or not. If you choose to get a REAL ID, you must provide two proofs of address in addition to the other documents. 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 your driver’s license, identification card, or military ID is valid for more than nine months. If you previously held a REAL ID, 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.

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. 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. A REAL ID card will have a gold star on it and can be used to board airplanes or enter secure federal facilities.

   - Only one proof of address is required if you prefer to have a beginner’s permit, license, or ID that has “NOT FOR FEDERAL IDENTIFICATION” printed across the front of it. You cannot use this card as your identification to board airplanes or enter secure federal facilities.

2. Unexpired SC beginner’s permit, driver’s license, ID, or vehicle registration: must show your current residential address or your updated address must be on file within the SCDMV’s system if it is not reflected on your credential.

3. Unexpired SC Concealed Weapons Permit (CWP): Fishing/hunting licenses or boat/jet ski registrations (Department of Natural Resources products).

4. Voter registration card: County tax bill or property tax receipt for your vehicle or home (current or preceding calendar year) Must be mailed to your SC address.

5. State or federal tax records: Income tax returns for current or prior year are acceptable including electronic tax file, W-2 Form, or Form 1099-B Health [insurance] Coverage. You must be listed as a primary tax payer or dependent.

6. School records – must be from an SC school, college or university unless otherwise noted. (current or prior school year).

7. School records: Report card (must show your name and current SC address) Letter or contract from Home Schooling Association. Official letter from your school or school district on school or district letterhead (must indicate enrollment period). Transcript (SC school, college or university). Out-of-state or in-state tuition bill or receipt of student loan. Letter from an out-of-state boarding school or a professional career development institute indicating that you live in SC and attend school out-of-state.

8. Legal documents supporting name change(s), if applicable. See specific requirements below. 6 CFR Section 37.11(c).

9. Social security card or proof of 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, marriage certificate or decree issued by state/country records office, certificate of naturalization, and court ordered name change. Your name must be updated with the Social Security Administration (SSA) first because 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.

3. 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 #2 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/country records office, certificate of naturalization, and court ordered name change.

4. 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.


   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.

Visit the Social Security Administration’s website for instructions on how to replace a lost social security card (http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssaonline).

5. Automobile Liability Insurance Information from a company licensed to do business in SC only if you are apply for a driver’s license.