

# Driver's Licenses - How To Get (KY)

A driver's license is required to drive but it's also used as your official I.D. proving your identity, age, and permanent address.

## General Info:

- **Cost:** (After January 1, 2019 cost will increase)
  - Permit: \$15, Standard License: \$43-8 year/\$21.50-4 year & Voluntary ID License \$48-8 year/\$24-4 year
- All Kentucky driver's permits and licenses are issued in the Circuit Court Clerk's office of the county you live.
  - Find your office: [drive.ky.gov/Pages/Circuit-clerks.aspx](http://drive.ky.gov/Pages/Circuit-clerks.aspx)
- Photocopies of documents needed for proving your identity are not accepted.
- To obtain a Kentucky Driver's License you must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident of this country living in Kentucky.
- An individual must be at least 16 years of age to apply for a permit/license.
- Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is prohibited. All drivers under the age of 21 are subject to "Zero Alcohol Tolerance."
- Buckle Up, it's the Law! Everyone in your vehicle must wear a seatbelt at all times.

## Bring With You:

- Your Birth Certificate, to prove your full legal name and date of birth.
- Your Social Security card (laminated cards not accepted).
- Proof of Kentucky residency: utility bill or agreement, mortgage documents, postmarked letter with your name and current address, property tax bill, or a rental housing agreement
- If you are under the age of 18:
  - A parent/legal guardian must sign the Driver's License Card application.
  - A School Compliance Verification form from your school district must be presented.
- Foster children are required to bring the Cabinet for Health and Family Services Custody Verification Letter to the Circuit Court Clerk's office.

## Testing

- You must complete the required written, vision, and skills tests administered by the Kentucky State Police before obtaining a permit or license.
- Call your Circuit Court Clerk's office to schedule an appointment for testing.
- Be sure to study the KY driver's manual to prepare for the written test. Download the manual: <http://kentuckystatepolice.org/drivers-testing>
- Check out the Driver's Permit Practice Test: [migration.kentucky.gov/kytc/practicedriversexam/](http://migration.kentucky.gov/kytc/practicedriversexam/)
- The motor vehicle you use for testing must be properly registered and proof of liability insurance is required

## If You 16 or 17 Years Old: Graduated Driver Licensing Program

- If you are 16 or 17 years old must go through three phases of licensing: Learner's Permit, Intermediate License, and Full Unrestricted License.
- Learner's Permit & Intermediate License holders have restrictions on when and with whom they can drive. For details visit: <https://drive.ky.gov/driver-licensing/Pages/Graduated-Driver-Licensing-Program.aspx>
- **Learner's Permit:** Applicant must successfully pass the written permit examination and the vision test to be issued a permit.
  - Learner's Permit last a minimum of 180 days.
  - The driver must complete a Practice Driving Log with a minimum of 60 hours of practice driving, 10 hours of which must be completed at night.
  - Get a moving traffic violation conviction, you must restart the Permit waiting period.
- **Intermediate License:** Apply for an Intermediate License and take the driving skills test.
  - The intermediary period is six months.
  - Complete the required driver education training course. The course offered by the Transportation Cabinet is a free, 4-hour course on driver safety.
    - You can take the course through your school, a community college, vocational school, or Job Corps.
    - You can also complete the course online for \$12.50 with [myimprov.com](http://myimprov.com).
- **Full Unrestricted License:** Apply for a full unrestricted license.
  - The driver will need to print and take a Graduated Licensing Eligibility letter when applying for a full unrestricted license. Go to <https://eligibility.gdl.kytc.ky.gov>.

## If you are 18 Years Old or Over:

- If you are 18 years old or over you must go through two phases of licensing: Learner's Permit & Full Unrestricted License
  - Applicants under the age of 21 must hold their driving permit for a minimum of 180 days.
  - Applicants over the age of 21 must hold their driving permit for a minimum of 30 days.

## Out-of-State Drivers Transferring to Kentucky:

- Once you have moved to KY you have 30 days to obtain a Kentucky Driver's License.
- You must be at least 16 years of age to transfer your driving permit or license to Kentucky.
- Out-of-State permit holders transferring to Kentucky must transfer their permit and be issued a Kentucky permit before applying for a Kentucky Driver's License.
- If under age 18, must present a School Compliance Verification Form signed by the out-of-state school (reference: No Pass/No Drive Law).
- No tests are required for persons transferring to Kentucky with valid driving privileges, except persons transferring from foreign countries.
- If your out of state license has expired, you will be required to take the written and eye tests.
- If your out-of-state license is expired 1 year or more, you must provide a current driving record or clearance letter from the state you are transferring from.

For additional assistance or information please check out the Drive KY website: [www.drive.ky.gov](http://www.drive.ky.gov) or call (502) 564-1257.