

Obtaining a Massachusetts State ID

Adapted from <http://www.mass.gov/rmv/license/13bMAID.htm>. This information may change. Please check the website directly for more detailed and up to date information.

Overview

What it is:

If you do not have a Massachusetts driver's license, the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) can issue you an official Massachusetts identification card. This ID card does not extend any driving privileges, but is an official form of identity, signature, and age that is accepted in State¹.

The ID is valid for 5 years.

Eligibility:

In order to be eligible to apply for a Massachusetts State ID, you:

- Must be at least 14 years of age.
- Must not hold a valid license in any other state.
- Must be a resident of Massachusetts.
- Must have a valid social security number or an acceptable denial letter (with an acceptable visa code²)

Fee:

There is also a **\$25.00 fee** per Massachusetts ID, with a **\$25.00 replacement fee** for a lost or damaged ID card. You must also clear a background check through the National Driver Register and pay the required fees.

Where to get it:

You can apply for a Massachusetts ID at any full service RMV office³. After initial application at the respective RMV branch, you will be given a temporary ID card that is valid for 30 days only, and within those 30 days, your permanent ID card will be mailed to you.

How to Apply

1. Complete a Class D, M, or D/M License and ID Card Application, available at any RMV service office, or may be downloaded from the RMV website⁴.
2. Present the application, \$25.00 fee and the appropriate documentation (see section below), **in person** to any RMV full service office.
3. You will receive a temporary ID valid for 30 days, after which your official ID will be mailed to you at the mailing address you provided.

¹ According to Massachusetts state law (c.138, §34B), establishments that serve alcohol are granted some form of legal protection if they served alcohol to a minor in reliance of a valid Massachusetts Liquor ID card, but not if the alcohol was served in reliance of a Massachusetts ID card. As such, some establishments that serve alcohol may not be willing to accept your ID card even if you at least 21 years of age.

² For a list of acceptable visa codes, visit <http://www.mass.gov/rmv/license/16visacodes.htm>

³ To find the closest office near you, visit <http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/rmv/main/BranchInfo/Map.aspx>

⁴ For a direct link to the form, visit http://www.mass.gov/rmv/forms/21042_0612.pdf.

What documentation you will need to present:

If you are under 18 years of age, present the following original documentation:

- Document proving date of birth
- Parental consent on the Class D, M, or D/M License and ID Card Application
- A Social Security Number (SSN) **OR** an acceptable Denial Notice from the SSA. If you present a Denial Notice, you must also present proof of acceptable visa status, a copy of your electronic Form I-94, and a current non-U.S. Passport.
- You must also clear a background check through the National Driver Register⁵ and pay the required fees.

Photocopies will not be accepted.

If you are 18 years of age or older, present the following original documentation:

- Document proving date of birth
- Document proving signature
- Document proving Massachusetts residency
- A Social Security Number (SSN) **OR** an acceptable Denial Notice from the SSA. If you present a Denial Notice, you must also present proof of acceptable visa status, a copy of your electronic Form I-94, and a current non-U.S. Passport.
- You must also clear a background check through the National Driver Register and pay the required fees.

Photocopies will not be accepted.

⁵ For more information about the NDR, visit [http://www.nationaldriverregister-forms.org/ndr/information/about the national driver register ndr.html](http://www.nationaldriverregister-forms.org/ndr/information/about%20the%20national%20driver%20register%20ndr.html)

