

# GREEN LIGHT NY: Driving Together

We won access to driver's licenses for all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status! Those who are newly eligible to apply for licenses under the Green Light law can apply starting on December 16th. Here is what you need to know!



## What does the Green Light law do?

The Green Light law, officially known as the Driver's License Access and Privacy Act, allows those without lawful status in the United States to apply for a **Standard New York State Driver's License (class D, M, & E and non-CDL C only)**—provided they go through the same application process, take the same tests, and pay the same fees as all other Standard License applicants.



## What is a Standard Driver's License?

A Standard License is one type of driver's license already offered by the State of New York. It is clearly marked "Not for Federal Purposes" and cannot be used for domestic air travel or for any other federal purpose. Many New Yorkers have Standard Licenses. It is not a separate type of license just for undocumented people.

## What are the requirements for obtaining a Standard Driver's License?

Applicants will have to apply for a learner's permit, pass a written exam, take a driver education course, and pass a road test, as well as provide documents proving their identity, age and residency. (Note: applicants with a license from another state--expired no longer than 2 years--can exchange their license for a NY license without taking a written exam, driving course, or road test.) Applicants will no longer be required to provide a social security number if they don't have one, but will have to sign an affidavit stating they have not been issued an SSN.

## What documents are needed to apply?

The DMV establishes applicants' identity using a point system. The DMV has an extensive list of US and now foreign documents with different point values assigned to each. Six points are required for proof of identity; you must also prove your age and provide documentation of your home address. Documents can be in English or accompanied by a certified translation.

Documents of note (*this is not a complete list*):

- Valid Foreign passport (**4 points, proof of age**)
- Valid Consular ID (**4 points, proof of age**)
- Foreign Driver's License Valid or Expired up to 24 months (**4 points, proof of age**)
- Foreign School Report Card or School Record (**1 pt**) - With photo (**2 pts**)
- US Municipal ID with photo (**1 point, proof of residency**)
- Tax Documents: IRS Tax Transcript, Tax Return, ITIN Issuance Letter, Wage and Income Transcript (**1 pt, proof of residency**)
- US High School ID Card with Report Card (**2 pts**)

The full list is on the DMV website: <https://dmv.ny.gov/driver-license/driver-licenses-and-green-light-law>

What you need to know FAQ  
12/11/19

[www.greenlightnewyork.org](http://www.greenlightnewyork.org)

# GREEN LIGHT NY: Driving Together

We won access to driver's licenses for all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status! Those who are newly eligible to apply for licenses under the Green Light law can apply starting on December 16th. Here is what you need to know!



## Will the DMV share my personal information with immigration enforcement agencies?

The Green Light bill includes several important privacy protections. The new law specifically restricts access to DMV data by immigration enforcement agencies and prohibits anyone receiving DMV records or information from using that data for immigration enforcement purposes. However, individual applicant information can be disclosed in response to a court order, judicial warrant, or validly issued subpoena (an administrative “warrant” from ICE would not suffice). While the bill contains strong protections, we don't know all of the ways that immigration authorities might attempt to obtain a person's information from the DMV, so each individual applicant should make an informed decision about the risks and benefits associated with applying for a license based on their own circumstances. For additional information, [see our privacy protections fact sheet](#).

## Are all DMV offices safe for newly eligible driver's license applicants?

Some County Clerks who run local DMV offices have stated publicly that they do not intend to comply with the Green Light law; some have even threatened to report undocumented applicants to ICE. These actions are unlawful and those who violate the law will likely face legal consequences if they do not comply. We recognize that it may not be safe for undocumented people to apply for driver's licenses at certain local DMV offices until these issues are resolved. As a coalition, we will be working to provide support to communities in those regions facing backlash from County Clerks to ensure access to licenses. Please note that new applicants are not required to apply in their home county. If you are concerned that your local DMV may not be safe, you may apply at an office in another county. The following counties have DMV's that are directly administered by the state, which means there cannot be interference by County Clerks: Albany, Bronx, Kings, Nassau, New York, Onondaga, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, Westchester.

## How do I find out more information or to report a problem?

- Visit the New York State DMV website [dmv.ny.gov](http://dmv.ny.gov) to find out more about how to apply, locate the closest DMV to you, and make an online appointment.
- The New York State Office of New Americans hotline, **1-800-566-7636**, can answer questions Monday through Friday 9AM to 8PM. They have interpretation available.
- Report fraud or unlawful discrimination to the New York State Attorney General's Office at **1-866-390-2992**

## **WATCH OUT FOR SCAMMERS!**

***Remember: You must apply for a license and take the test yourself.  
Do not give money to anyone claiming they can help you obtain a driver's license.***