



# Driver License General Information Foster Youth Fact Sheet

A Texas driver license is free to any foster youth who is either 1) between 15 to 18 years of age and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) is the legal custodian, or 2) between 18 to 21 years of age and residing in a paid DFPS foster care placement.

For fosters youths who are eligible for a free driver license, please review the information below before visiting your nearest driver license office.

## All Original Driver License (DL) Applicants

All foster youths who apply for an original driver license must:

- Apply in person at any Texas driver license office.
- Present documents that verify your identity. For a complete list of documents that will be accepted to verify your identity, please visit our website at <http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/identificationrequirements.htm>.
- Present documents to verify that you are a U.S. citizen or have lawful presence. The information contained on each document presented at the driver license office must match each other. Additional documentation may be required to verify conflicting information such as incomplete names, date of birth, etc. For more information on citizenship or lawful presence, please visit our website at <http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/LawfulStatusDLID.htm>.
- \*Present proof of your social security number. If you do not have a social security number then you must complete a *Social Security Affidavit* available at any driver license office.
- Present proof of Texas vehicle registration and liability insurance on all vehicles that are in your name.
- Complete the *Driver License Application* (DL-14A). This form can be completed at the driver license office or downloaded from our website at [www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense/dpsforms](http://www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense/dpsforms) and completed prior to your visit.
- \*Present proof of Texas residency.
- Consent to be photographed, fingerprinted, and provide your signature at the time of application.
- Pass the written, driving, and vision tests.
- Provide a vehicle with current liability insurance, Texas registration, and inspection for the driving test.

\*For a complete list of documents that will be accepted to verify your social security number and/or Texas residency, please visit our website at [www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense](http://www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense).

## Foster Youth Under 18 Years of Age

In addition to the requirements listed in the *All Original Driver License (DL) Applicants* section, all foster youth applicants who are under 18 years of age must also:

- Use the address of the foster parent or residential child-care provider listed on the *Driver License Application* (DL-14A).
- Provide a signature of authorization from the DFPS primary caseworker, foster parent, or residential child-care provider on the *Driver License Application* in order to issue the license.
  - The adult who signs the application is the only person eligible to withdraw authorization for the license.
  - Authorization may be withdrawn at any time. If authorization is withdrawn then the license will be cancelled.
- Complete the *Texas Residency Affidavit*. The foster parent or residential child-care provider must sign the affidavit, which certifies the current residence of the foster youth. To download a copy of this form, please visit our website at [www.dps.texas.gov/internetforms/default.aspx](http://www.dps.texas.gov/internetforms/default.aspx).
- The person certifying the residential address must accompany the applicant and provide acceptable proof of residency documents. For a complete list of documents that will be accepted to verify your residency, please visit our website at [www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense](http://www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense).
  - Any foster youth who lives in a residential child-care setting may present a notarized letter or a notarized *Texas Residency Affidavit* affirming that he/she receives mail and services at that address.
  - The residential child-care provider does not have to accompany the applicant or provide proof of residency documents if a notarized letter or affidavit is presented.

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- Present the completed and signed *DFPS Foster Youth Driver License Fee Waiver* letter. The youth's primary DFPS caseworker must complete and sign the letter verifying that DFPS is the managing conservator of the youth and that the youth is in a DFPS foster care placement.
- Present the driver education completion certificate with your application. If you have a learner license or a provisional license (full class), you must still submit your driver education completion certificate.
- Submit a high school diploma, its equivalent (GED), or a *Verification of Enrollment and Attendance* (VOE) form.
  - A letter from your school administrator may be submitted in lieu of the VOE form.
  - The letter submitted must contain the same information that is contained on the VOE form.

**NOTE:** The VOE form verifies that the applicant is enrolled in a public school, home school, private school, or GED program. All applicants who are under 18 years of age who apply for an original or renewal driver license must submit a VOE form. The VOE form is valid for 30 days after issuance in the spring and fall semesters and for 90 days during the summer.

The Graduated Driver License (GDL) program provides the procedures necessary for young adults who are 15 to 18 years of age to obtain a driver license. For more information on the GDL program, please visit our website at [www.dps.texas.gov](http://www.dps.texas.gov).

### **Foster Youth 18 to 21 Years of Age**

In addition to the requirements listed in the *All Original Driver License (DL) Applicants* section, all foster youth who are between 18 to 21 years of age must also:

- Complete a six-hour Adult Driver Education Course and pass the vision and road tests at any driver license office. For more information on the required driver education course, please visit: <http://www5.esc13.net/drivers/faq-adult-driver-ed-course.html>.
- Present the completed and signed *DFPS Foster Youth Driver License Fee Waiver* letter. The DFPS primary caseworker or other authorized DFPS personnel must sign and complete the *Foster Youth Driver License Fee Waiver* letter affirming eligibility.
- Use the placement address (with their consent) when completing the application for a license. If you leave the placement location then an *Application for Change of Address Certificate* (DL-64) must be submitted to DPS.
- Complete the *Texas Residency Affidavit*. The foster parent or residential child-care provider must sign the affidavit certifying the current residence of the applicant.
- The person certifying the residential address must accompany an applicant and provide acceptable proof of residency documents. For a complete list of documents that will be accepted to verify your residency, please visit our website at [www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense](http://www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense).
  - Any foster youth who lives in a residential child-care setting may present a notarized letter or a notarized *Texas Residency Affidavit* affirming that you receive mail and services at that address.
  - The residential child-care provider does not have to accompany the applicant or provide proof of residency documents if the notarized letter or affidavit is presented.

**For more licensing requirements information, please visit our website at [www.dps.texas.gov](http://www.dps.texas.gov) or call (512) 424-2600.**