New Mexicans have two options for getting a driver’s license – a license that meets federal Real ID requirements or the new Standard License.

Standard Licenses replace the old “Driving Authorization Cards,” and the process is simpler. All you need to show is proof of identity, age and New Mexico residency – no fingerprints and no social security number are ever needed. You can choose the Standard license for 4 or 8 years.

The more-rigorous process to obtain a Real ID License remains the same. Real ID credentials will be needed for boarding commercial flights and entering certain federal facilities beginning October 1, 2020.

New Mexicans who do not drive can apply for a Real ID Identification Card or a Standard Identification Card.

Which is Right for You?

The Standard License may be right for you if...

- You want a simpler process for obtaining a driver’s license or just don’t want or need a Real ID license.
- You rarely fly or have no need to enter federal facilities.
- You have or can easily get other Real ID compliant credentials, such as a passport, U.S. military id, federally recognized,
tribal-issued photo id or a permanent resident card. A complete list is available at TSA.gov

- You are ineligible for a Real ID license or may have difficulty obtaining one because you do not have necessary documents, such as a birth certificate, because your name isn’t consistent on identifying documents or because of your immigration status.

The Real ID License may be right for you if...

- You frequently fly or need access to federal facilities and prefer to carry just one credential that satisfies both that need and valid driving privileges.

- You’ve already obtained your Real ID license and only need to renew it periodically.

What is it good for?

- Both types of licenses are valid for driving.

- A Real ID License can be used for boarding domestic commercial flights and entering certain federal facilities after Oct. 1, 2020; the Standard License will not be accepted for those purposes.

- Under New Mexico law, Standard Licenses and Identification Cards must be accepted for all other identification purposes in New Mexico on the same terms as a Real ID credential. This includes transactions like cashing a check or obtaining state and local government services.

What do you need?

Standard License

- One document that provides proof of your identity and age

- Two documents that prove New Mexico residency

Real ID License

- One document proving identity and age

- One document proving citizenship or lawful presence

- One document providing social security number

- Two documents proving New Mexico residency

- All names on these documents must match exactly

Lists of acceptable documents for both types of credentials are available at mvd.newmexico.gov

Learn more by visiting mvdonline.com