

# What is REAL ID?

For Veterans  
& Military

## Federal REAL ID Is Here: Are You Ready?

REAL ID is federal legislation created in the wake of the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks to establish security standards for all state driver's licenses and identification cards nationwide. After May 7, 2025, you will be required to have a REAL ID compliant driver's license or ID card in order to use your driver's license or ID card to board commercial aircraft for domestic flights or to gain access to federal facilities. To be considered REAL ID compliant, you must have the new REAL ID license as well as the required documents on file with the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration (MDOT MVA). Customers are encouraged to make an appointment on the MDOT MVA website, and after collecting documentation, visit a local branch to become REAL ID compliant.



## HOW do I know if I need to submit REAL ID documents?

Check your REAL ID status by visiting our website and entering your driver's license/ID card number:

<https://realid.mva.maryland.gov>. Please note MDOT MVA will contact you through email and/or the U.S. Postal Service.

## WHAT type of documentation is needed for REAL ID?

*\*\*The REAL ID Modernization Act has changed some proof of social security documentation requirements for customers. If you need to provide REAL ID documents, please visit our REAL ID Lookup Tool to determine what documents you will need to bring to your next appointment.\*\**

Customers will need to present the following documents in person at an MDOT MVA branch. Here are some suggestions:

### 1 proof of age and identity

- Original Birth Certificate
- Passport (valid or expired less than 5 years).
- DD-214 (Veterans 65 or older)

### 1 proof of social security

- Original Social Security Card
- W-2 Form
- SSA-1099 Form

### 2 proofs of Maryland residency

- Military Benefits Statement
- Bank Account Statement
- Telephone Bill

A full list of acceptable documents can be viewed in the MDOT MVA's Online Document Guide: [www.mva.maryland.gov/odg](http://www.mva.maryland.gov/odg)

## Make an appointment for REAL ID

To make an appointment for REAL ID, you must visit and complete the Online Document Guide: [www.mva.maryland.gov/odg](http://www.mva.maryland.gov/odg). Once you've completed the guide, you will be prompted to make an appointment for your REAL ID visit. If you make an appointment, you are guaranteed to be seen in 15 minutes.

### On active duty and away from Maryland?

If you are in the military, absent from Maryland or the United States, and need to provide REAL ID Documents, please email: [MVAAFS@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:MVAAFS@mdot.maryland.gov).

LEARN MORE: [www.mva.maryland.gov/realid](http://www.mva.maryland.gov/realid)