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## FACT SHEET

### **REAL ID: How did we get here and how do I get one?**

#### **Background**

On September 11, 2001, the United States was the victim of a terrorist attack that resulted in the death of nearly 3,000 people. As a result of that attack, Congress formed the 9/11 Commission to provide recommendations on how to reform the United States intelligence community and to implement other security measures to prevent future terrorist attacks. One of those recommendations was the following:

The federal government should set standards for the issuance of birth certificates and sources of identification, such as driver's licenses. Fraud in identification document is no longer just a problem of theft. At many entry points to vulnerable facilities, including gates for boarding aircraft, sources of identification are the last opportunity to ensure that people are who they say they are and to check whether they are terrorists.

In May of 2005, Congress passed and the President signed into law the REAL ID Act of 2005, which directly imposed prescriptive driver's license standards. In 2007, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued draft regulations for implementing REAL ID, and in 2008 issued final regulations for implementation, setting a compliance deadline of May 10, 2011. On March 4, 2011 DHS extended the deadline to 2013. By December of 2012, 13 states met compliance standards for REAL ID. After granting multiple extensions, DHS set a final date for requiring REAL ID to board any domestic flight for October 1, 2020. By October 2018, 37 states were REAL ID compliant. California began issuing what it considered to be REAL ID-approved licenses in January of 2018. However DHS notified DMV in December of 2018 that its licenses were not REAL ID compliant. REAL ID compliance required two proofs of residency, and California only required one proof of residency. California's application stated that the second proof of residency would be met by mailing the IDs to the person's residence (A similar requirement had been approved by DHS in Michigan prior to California submitting its application to DHS. Subsequently, DHS determined Michigan was no longer REAL ID compliant). California revised its REAL ID implementation, requiring two proof of residency documents while allowing those who already received a REAL ID to mail back a form sent to them from DMV to prove their residency. This plan was approved by DHS in April, 2019, when California became fully compliant with REAL ID. As of November, 2019, there are 5 jurisdictions, including Oregon, Oklahoma, and New Jersey, that have not received DHS approval.

#### **What do I need a REAL ID for?**

Starting October 1, 2020, you will need a REAL ID to board any domestic flight. You also need a REAL ID to enter secured federal facilities. REAL ID is already required for gun or ammo purchases. You may use a valid U.S. passport or card instead of a REAL ID for all of these purposes.

## **What does a REAL ID look like?**

A California REAL ID has a golden bear with a star on the top right corner. If your ID lacks the star, or says “Federal limits apply” on the top right corner, then you do not have a REAL ID.

## **What do I need for a REAL ID?**

The Requirements for a REAL ID are set by the REAL ID Act and are a federal requirement, not a state requirement. In order to get a REAL ID, the federal government requires an in-person visit for the first REAL ID/ Driver’s License card. You need to bring the following: proof of identity, proof of your Social Security Number, and two proofs of residency. For a full list of documents that can be used, see: <https://realid.dmv.ca.gov/your-real-id-checklist/>

### **Proof of Identity:**

Some examples for proof of identity include: original or certified Copy of U.S. birth certificate, an unexpired U.S. passport or passport card or an unexpired permanent resident card.

### **Proof of Social Security:**

You may be able to still apply for a REAL ID Compliant Card if you are ineligible for a Social Security Number (SSN). If you are eligible, you must present an original document with your full SSN. The name on your SSN must match the name on your proof of identity. This includes: Social Security Card, W-2 form, or a pay stub with full SSN.

### **Proof of Residency:**

You must present two documents that contain your California mailing address with your first and last name that matches the name on your proof of identity.

If your name does not appear on any residency documents, you may present a birth certificate, marriage license, or domestic partner registration certificate to trace your relationship to a person whose name does appear on the residency documentation.

The following are examples of what documents can be used for proof of residency: rental or lease agreement, deed or title to residential real property, mortgage bill, or a home utility bill (including cellular phone).

## **When should I come in to get a REAL ID?**

If you plan on making a domestic flight on or after October 1, 2020, plan on entering a secured federal facility, or plan on purchasing a gun or ammunition, then you should get a REAL ID. If you can, you should get a REAL ID when your current ID or license is set to expire. Most licenses expire every five years on your birthday, and the expiration date is printed on your license. You may use a valid U.S. Passport in lieu of a REAL ID.