

Driver's License Renewal in Iowa



CHOICES



NOT CHANCES

The road to driving safer and longer

“Our goal is to provide the kind of service that encourages drivers to let us help them make safe driving decisions. We don’t want people to be afraid when they come into our driver’s license stations. We will take the time to listen and work with older drivers on options that may allow them to continue to drive safely. Taking someone’s license away is the very last thing we want to do.”

**Kim Snook
Office of Driver Services
Iowa DOT**

Iowa Driver’s License Renewal

One-on-one communication with driver’s license customers is the most valuable tool Driver Services employees use to help drivers stay independent and safe.

Driver Services employees understand that a sense of remaining independent, in everything from running errands to shopping to visits with friends, family and doctors, depends on a driver’s license.

There are times when Driver Services personnel, or even the drivers themselves, determine it’s time to stop driving. In those cases, people are given a free identification card.

There are also times when the DOT must suspend a person’s driving privilege. This can be caused by vision problems, a medical condition or unsafe driving. If the driver cannot be relicensed, DOT personnel make the commitment to work with the individual by providing information about available transportation alternatives.

We are providing this information to make the renewal process understandable and less stressful. We hope that by explaining why the DOT screens vision, requires medical information and requests drive tests, and describing how these all relate to highway safety, drivers will know what to expect.

Personnel are available to answer questions or discuss concerns at any of the Iowa Department of Transportation or County Treasurer driver’s license sites. Please contact one of the driver’s license stations listed in this booklet.

Renewing Your License

Renewing a driver’s license can be stressful, especially for older drivers who may worry about the vision screening or having to take a knowledge or drive test. This section will explain how the renewal process works and what to expect. We hope that this explanation will help take some of the stress out of the process.

- In Iowa your license expires on your birthday. It is valid for another 60 days, so you can renew it within that period and not have to take the knowledge test. This is called a “grace period.” However, if you are planning to fly or rent an automobile, you should be aware that airlines and car rental agencies do not recognize this grace period and consider the license expired.
- If you want to renew your license more than 30 days before the expiration date, you need to explain why you are applying for the early renewal. Drivers who spend the winter months in a warmer climate should do this if their licenses will expire while they are gone.

Vision Screening

Vision is so important that Iowa requires you to pass a vision screening before you get a driver's license or permit, and when you renew your license. This screening is to make sure you have at least 20/40 vision in at least one eye, with or without corrective lenses.

If you are applying for a non-commercial license and are concerned about the vision screening process at a driver's license station, you may want to go directly to your doctor and have him/her check your vision. The information can be placed on a form furnished by the DOT or in a letter from your doctor, if he/she has measured your vision within 30 days of when you apply for a license.



Because it is so important that you see well to be a safe driver, you should have your eyes checked every year or two by an eye specialist. You may never know you have poor vision unless your eyes are tested.

If you need to wear corrective lenses for driving, remember to:

- always wear them when you drive, even if you are only going a short distance. If your driver's license says you must wear corrective lenses and you don't, you could get a ticket if you are stopped by a law enforcement officer; and

- keep an extra pair (with the current prescription) in your vehicle. Then if your regular lenses are broken or lost, you can drive safely. This also can be helpful if you do not wear corrective lenses all the time and you forget to take them with you when driving.

Other important aspects of vision are:

Side vision - You need to see "out the corner of your eye." This lets you spot vehicles and other potential trouble on either side of you while you look ahead. Because you cannot focus on things to the side, you also must use your side mirrors and glance to the side, if necessary.

Judging distance and speed - Even if you can see clearly, you still may not be able to judge distance or speed very well. In fact, you are not alone; many people have problems judging distance and speed. It takes a lot of practice to be able to judge both. It is especially important to know how far you are from other vehicles, and to be able to judge safe gaps when merging and passing on two-lane roads.

Night vision - Many people who can see clearly in the daytime have trouble seeing at night. All people have more difficulty seeing at night than in the daytime, but some drivers have problems with glare while driving at night, especially the glare of oncoming headlights. If you have problems seeing at night, do not drive more than is necessary.

Medical Requirements

During the renewal process you are asked, "Do you have any mental or physical disabilities that may affect your driving?" Many health conditions may have an effect on your driving, including a bad cold, infection or virus. Even little problems like a stiff neck, cough or sore leg can affect your driving. Just in the normal aging process, you probably have some changes in your health condition.



Some conditions are more serious, such as diabetes, heart disease and Parkinson's. When asked the question about your physical and mental health problems, be sure to inform the driver's license clerk about any problems. Some health conditions require you to get a statement from your physician to be sure it doesn't affect your ability to drive safely. Physicians are the experts; they know the medications you are taking and whether these medications may affect your driving.

If you have had a stroke or amputation, or just have tighter muscles or stiffer joints since your last renewal, you may want to be evaluated at a rehabilitation center in Iowa. They can show you mechanical attachments and other equipment that may help make driving easier for you. Ask your physician for recommendations.

Drive Tests

If there has been a change in your health condition or the current restriction(s) on your license do not reflect your current condition, the driver's license examiner may require you to take a drive test. This is NOTHING to be afraid of. The examiner wants you to take the drive to make sure you are safe, based on your condition, and that your vehicle is properly equipped. If you aren't able to take the drive test that day, an appointment can be set up at your convenience.

The examiner will explain prior to the drive test what will be expected during the test, and answer questions you may have. The examiner will give instructions well in advance of what he/she wants you to do. If you have questions, ask. The drive is designed to show normal driving situations, such as lane changes, backing, speed control, and decision making at intersections.



At the conclusion of the drive test, the examiner will review the test results with you. The examiner will

discuss the areas of driving you do well, and those where you need improvement. Many times during a drive test the examiner sees some "bad driving habits" that you may not be aware of. The examiner will review the correct driving techniques with you.

If you pass the test, your driver's license will be issued. If you are unable to pass the test, the examiner will outline where practice is needed and schedule another drive test.

You may pass the drive test but need to have restrictions placed on your license because of your driving performance, vision acuity or physical condition. In some cases, you may have already restricted your own driving, such as not driving at night, driving during certain times of the day when traffic is less congested or not driving on four-lane highways. The examiner may also add restrictions such as no night driving, speeds not to exceed 35 mph, or driving in only a familiar area or a limited radius from your home. The drive test may also be given in your home area or hometown, if you want to be restricted to that area.

The drive test is a way to be sure you are a safe driver. No driver is “perfect” and can always benefit by having someone evaluate their driving.

The following are some things you can do to prepare for the renewal process.

1. Make an appointment with your eye doctor. This can be your annual eye check-up. The doctor can provide you with a vision statement for use by the DOT during the renewal process, instead of driver’s license personnel doing a vision screening. If the doctor recommends new lenses, make sure you have them prior to appearing for renewal.

2. Make it a point each year to review the Iowa Driver’s Manual. Education is key to keeping abreast of good driving habits. There are also Senior Drivers’ Workbooks that contain general questions and quizzes for you to take to increase your knowledge of safe driving. These are free. Stop at a driver’s license station and request these books.

55 Alive is an inexpensive class for older drivers to increase their awareness of driving procedures. It also helps drivers become aware of changes in their physical/mental health and identify any future problems. Even after a lifetime of driving, first-time participants usually come away surprised they learned so much. Take advantage of these classes by contacting your local AARP chapter or community college to find out when you can sign up for the class.

3. It is a great idea to have someone ride with you. Ask a family member or neighbor to ride along with you to give you an opinion on how you are doing. It will help your peace of mind knowing that it is safe for you to continue driving. Ask for some suggestions about driving situations you should avoid. Make it a FUN time! Stop and have an ice cream cone or piece of pie while you are out.



Driver's License Stations

For specific hours of operation, call the driver's license station in your area, or the Motor Vehicle Information Center at 800-532-1121.

State DL Stations

Ames

HyVee Mall
3708 Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa 50014
515-296-2393

Burlington

Fairway Shopping Center
2700 Mount Pleasant St.
Burlington, Iowa 52601
319-754-8767

Carroll

510 N. Carroll St.
Suite 1
Carroll, Iowa 51401
712-792-5269

Cedar Rapids

152 Collins Road N.E.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402
319-377-6461

Clinton

316 S. Second St.
Clinton, Iowa 52732
563-243-7144

Council Bluffs

Mall of the Bluffs
1751 Madison Ave., Suite 330
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503
712-323-1219

Davenport

2162 W. Kimberly Road
Davenport, Iowa 52806
563-386-1050

Des Moines

6310 SE Convenience Blvd.
Ankeny, Iowa 50021
515-244-1052

Des Moines Renewal Station

2339 Euclid Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa 50310

Dubuque

Asbury Square Shopping Center
2255 JFK Road
Dubuque, Iowa 52002
563-583-9844

Fort Dodge

2313 First Ave. S.
Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501
515-573-5141

Iowa City

Eastdale Mall
1700 S. First Ave.
Iowa City, Iowa 52240
319-338-5294

Marshalltown

Marshall Town Center
2500 S. Center St.
Marshalltown, Iowa 50158
641-752-5668

Mason City

Southport Mall
1622 S. Federal Ave.
Mason City, Iowa 50401
641-423-8391

Muscatine

1903 Park Ave.
Muscatine, Iowa 52761
563-263-5414

Ottumwa

2830 N. Court Road
Ottumwa, Iowa 52501
641-682-4855

Sioux City

Market Place Mall
3005 Hamilton Blvd.
Sioux City, Iowa 51104
712-255-5539

Spencer

Gateway North
1900 Grand Ave., Suite B4
Spencer, Iowa 51301
712-262-6278

Waterloo

2060 Crossroads Center
Suite 103
Waterloo, Iowa 50702
319-235-0902

County DL Stations

Adair County

400 Public Square Suite 2
Greenfield, Iowa 50849-1289
641-743-2312

Adams County

500 9th Street
Corning, Iowa 50841
641-322-3210

Allamakee County

110 Allamakee Street
Waukon, Iowa 52172
563-568-3793

Appanoose County

201 N. 12th Street
Centerville, Iowa 52544
641-856-3097

Audubon County

318 Leroy Street #5
Audubon, Iowa 50025-1255
712-563-2556

Driver's License Stations

Benton County

111 E. 4th Street
Vinton, Iowa 52349
319-472-2450

Boone County

201 State Street
Boone, Iowa 50036-3983
515-433-0522

Bremer County

415 E. Bremer Avenue
Waverly, Iowa 50677
319-352-2615

Buchanan County

210 5th Avenue NE
PO Box 319
Independence, Iowa 50644
319-334-7456

Buena Vista County

215 E. 5th Street
PO Drawer 149
Storm Lake, Iowa 50588
712-749-2571

Butler County

428 6th Street
Allison, Iowa 50602
319-267-2145

Calhoun County

416 4th Street, Suite 2
Rockwell City, Iowa 50579
712-297-7111

Cass County

5 W. 7th Street
Atlantic, Iowa 50022
712-243-2975

Cedar County

400 Cedar Street
Tipton, Iowa 52772
563-886-2557

Cherokee County

520 W. Main, Drawer E
Cherokee, Iowa 51012
712-225-2770

Chickasaw County

8 E. Prospect
PO Box 186
New Hampton, Iowa 50659
641-394-3204

Clarke County

100 S Main
PO Box 157
Osceola, Iowa 50213
641-342-3311

Clayton County

111 High Street NE
PO Box 417
Elkader, Iowa 52043
563-245-1807

Crawford County

1202 Broadway
Denison, Iowa 51442
712-263-3439

Dallas County

918 Court Street, Suite B
Adel, Iowa 50003
515-993-6992

Davis County

100 Courthouse Square
Bloomfield, Iowa 52537
641-664-2155

Decatur County

207 N. Main
Leon, Iowa 50144
641-446-4321

Delaware County

301 E. Main Street, Room 200
PO Box 27
Manchester, Iowa 52057
563-927-2845

Dickinson County

1802 Hill Ave
PO Box AD
Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360
712-336-6277

Emmett County

609 1st Avenue North
PO Box 55
Estherville, Iowa 51334
712-362-5679

Fayette County

114 N. Vine St
PO Box 273
West Union, Iowa 52175
563-422-3787

Floyd County

101 S. Main Street, Suite 303
Charles City, Iowa 50616
641-257-6121

Franklin County

12 1st Ave NW
PO Box 178
Hampton, Iowa 50441
641-456-6020

Fremont County

506 Filmore Street
Sidney, Iowa 51652-0299
712-374-2344

Greene County

114 N. Chestnut
Jefferson, Iowa 50129
515-386-5675

Grundy County

706 G Avenue
Grundy Center, Iowa 50638
319-824-1212

Guthrie County

200 N. 5th Street
Guthrie Center, Iowa 50115
641-747-3414

Driver's License Stations

Hamilton County

2300 Superior St
PO Box 160
Webster City, Iowa 50595-0160
515-832-8549

Hancock County

855 State Street
PO Box 70
Garner, Iowa 50438
641-923-3122

Hardin County

1215 Edgington Avenue
PO Box 391
Eldora, Iowa 50627
641-939-8238

Harrison County

111 N. 2nd Avenue
Logan, Iowa 51546
712-644-2371

Henry County

100 E. Washington
PO Box 146
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 52641
319-385-7173

Howard County

137 N. Elm
Cresco, Iowa 52136
563-547-3860

Humboldt County

203 Main Street
Dakota City, Iowa 50529
515-332-2993

Ida County

401 Moorehead Street
Ida Grove, Iowa 51445
712-364-2158

Iowa County

901 Court Avenue
PO Box 145
Marengo, Iowa 52301
319-642-3371

Jackson County

201 West Platt Street
Maquoketa, Iowa 52060
563-652-2617

Jasper County

101 1st Street N, Room 102
Newton, Iowa 50208
641-792-3815

Jefferson County

Court & Briggs
PO Box 308
Fairfield, Iowa 52556
641-472-2349

Jones County

500 W. Main Street, Room 106
PO Box 79
Anamosa, Iowa 52205
319-462-2137

Keokuk County

101 S. Main Street
Sigourney, Iowa 52591
641-622-1065

Kossuth County

114 West State Street
Algona, Iowa 50511
515-295-7724

Lee (North) County

933 Avenue H
Fort Madison, Iowa 52627
319-372-3405

Lee (South) County

25 N. 7th Street
Keokuk, Iowa 52632
319-524-1550

Louisa County

117 S. Main
PO Box 207
Wapello, Iowa 52653
319-523-4454

Lucas County

916 Braden Avenue
Chariton, Iowa 50049
641-774-5213

Lyon County

206 S. Second Avenue
Rock Rapids, Iowa 51246
712-472-2803

Madison County

112 N. John Wayne Drive
PO Box 152
Winterset, Iowa 50273
515-462-1542

Mahaska County

106 S. First Street
Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577
641-673-9521

Marion County

214 E. Main
PO Box 515
Knoxville, Iowa 50138
641-828-2205

Mills County

418 Sharp Street
Glenwood, Iowa 51534
712-527-5314

Mitchell County

508 State Street
Osage, Iowa 50461
641-732-5861 ext. 134

Monona County

610 Iowa Avenue
PO Box 415
Onawa, Iowa 51040
712-433-9566

Monroe County

10 Benton Avenue East
Albia, Iowa 52531
641-932-5011

Driver's License Stations

Montgomery County

105 Coolbaugh Street
PO Box 469
Red Oak, Iowa 51566
712-623-3292

O'Brien County

155 S. Hayes Avenue
PO Box 310
Primghar, Iowa 51245
712-957-4185

Osceola County

300 7th Street
PO Box 166
Sibley, Iowa 51249
712-754-3217

Page County

112 E. Main Street
Clarinda, Iowa 51632
712-542-5310

Palo Alto County

1010 Broadway
PO Box 77
Emmetsburg, Iowa 50536
712-852-3844

Plymouth County

215 4th Avenue SE
Le Mars, Iowa 51031
712-546-1663

Pocahontas County

99 Court Square
Pocahontas, Iowa 50574
712-335-4334

Poweshiek County

302 E. Main Street
Montezuma, Iowa 50171
641-623-2137

Ringgold County

109 W. Madison, Suite 200
Mount Ayr, Iowa 50854
641-464-3230

Sac County

100 NW State Street
Sac City, Iowa 50583
712-662-4578

Shelby County

612 Court Street
PO Box 110
Harlan, Iowa 51537-0110
712-755-5898

Sioux County

104 - 1st Street SE
PO Box 77
Orange City, Iowa 51041
712-737-8430

Tama County

104 West State Street
PO Box 336
Toledo, Iowa 52342
641-484-3141

Taylor County

405 Jefferson Street
Bedford, Iowa 50833
712-523-2088

Union County

300 N. Pine Street, Suite 1
Creston, Iowa 50801
641-782-1710

Van Buren County

400 Dodge Street
PO Box 473
Keosauqua, Iowa 52565
319-293-3450

Warren County

301 N. Buxton, Suite 102
PO Box 217
Indianola, Iowa 50125
515-961-1144

Washington County

222 W. Main Street, PO Box 889
Washington, Iowa 52353
319-653-7789

Wayne County

100 N. Lafayette Street
PO Box 435
Corydon, Iowa 50060
641-872-2515

Winnebago County

126 South Clark Street
Forest City, Iowa 50436
641-585-4430

Winneshiek County

201 W. Main Street
Decorah, Iowa 52101
563-382-3753

Worth County

822 Central Avenue
PO Box 257
Northwood, Iowa 50459
641-324-2942

Wright County

115 N. Main Street
PO Box 226
Clarion, Iowa 50525
515-532-2691



This booklet is part of the Iowa Department of Transportation's **"Choices Not Chances - The Road to Driving Safer and Longer"** series. These booklets and video were developed to help Iowa drivers remain safe and mobile as they age. For more information, contact the Department of Transportation's Office of Driver Services at 800-532-1121.

