

I Am Here: obtaining your identification and vital documents

Finland

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National Identification Cards

What type of document can youth seek which will allow them to move around the country?

For Finnish children, both a passport and a national ID card can be used for travel within the EU and Schengen Area countries.

A Finnish Passport is the primary travel document for international travel. It is required for travel outside the EU and Schengen Area.

<https://raja.fi/en/passports-and-other-travel-documents>

Finnish citizens, including children, can use a national ID card as a travel document within the EU and Schengen Area. The ID card must include a travel entitlement.

This card can be used instead of a passport for travel to countries like Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, and many others.

<https://poliisi.fi/en/identity-card>

If you are a non-EU or non-Finnish citizen you will need to apply for a valid Residence Permit.

More information on how to do this can be found here:

<https://www.infofinland.fi/en/moving-to-finland/registering-as-a-resident>

What is the process for getting a National ID card?

You can apply for a standard identity card online or by visiting the police station of your choice. It is easiest to do this online.

1. Have your passport photograph taken. The photography studio sends your passport photograph to the Police electronically. You will receive a photograph retrieval code as a text message or e-mail message for attaching the photograph to the application.
2. Fill out the application in our [online service](#)[Link to an external websiteOpens in a new tab](#). Attach the photograph retrieval code you have received to the application. Select delivery time and collection point. The system will tell you if you need to visit a police station. Pay the application fee online. You can also monitor the progress of your application online.
3. Book an appointment with our [online service](#)[Link to an external websiteOpens in a new tab](#) if you need to visit a police station in order to apply. Remember to take your current passport or identity card with you if you have one.
4. Pick up your new identity card from the collection point you chose when you receive the collection note.

If you cannot or do not want to submit the application online, you can also do so at a police station. Please note that submitting the application online is cheaper and quicker.

Online application forms are available for standard identity cards, a minor's identity card without travel right and a foreigner's identity card. You cannot apply for a temporary identity card online.[pe answer here](#)

If you are a minor, you can submit an [electronic application](#) for a minor online the same as for adults, but almost all minors are required to visit a police station for identification.

A visit is needed if the applicant's previous passport or identity card was issued when they were under 12 years of age. This applies even if the applicant is still under 12 years of age. Children's identity verification is done particularly carefully since the facial features of minors change quickly.

The chip in the personal ID card accepted as a travel document, issued on 2 August 2021 or thereafter, contains the holder's biometric identifiers, i.e., the fingerprints and facial image. However, the fingerprints are not taken from under 12-years-olds and so their only biometric identifier is the facial image.

Where can I find information online about getting a National ID?

Poliisi of Finland

<https://poliisi.fi/en/identity-card>

An identity card is a document that certifies your identity when you use different services. In some cases, the identity card can also be used as a travel document and it has a chip that allows you to use online services.

The identity card is usually valid for five years at a time.

What documents do I have to have to get a National ID? Is there any document that I must have to get an ID?

If you apply for an identity card at a police station without using the online service at all: You will be asked to verify your identity using either your valid passport or identity card. If you don't have either, the police can still verify your identity, but this will take some time. You should bring with you if available:

- one passport photograph. For more information, see section [Passport photograph](#).
- a previous passport or identity card. For more information, see section [Verifying your identity](#).
- a bank card or cash. For more information, see [Payments](#).

- the consent of all guardians if you are applying for an identity card for a minor under the age of 18. If a guardian is not present at the police station, they can provide their consent in writing. For more information see section [Identify card for a minor](#).
- proof of conscript's clearance, if you are a conscript between the ages of 23 and 30. For more information, see section Issuing identity cards to conscripts.

or

For online application:

1. Passport photo - The photography studio sends your passport photograph to the Police electronically. You will receive a photograph retrieval code as a text message or e-mail message for attaching the photograph to the application.
- When you use online services, you can prove your identity using Suomi.fi identification. You can use online banking identification, a mobile ID or your identity card's Citizen Certificate in [Suomi.fi](#) [Link to an external website](#) [Opens in a new tab](#). Always use your own personal identification.

What if my documents do not have my correct name/address?

Changes in personal data

You cannot use your identity card if your name or personal identity code has changed and your current identity card has your old details. However, you can still use an expired identity document to verify your identity when you pick up your new identity document, but only if the old document expired no more than a year ago.

It's recommended that you apply for a new identity card as soon as your new name or personal identity code has been confirmed.

<https://poliisi.fi/en/how-to-apply-for-an-identity-card>

What if I only have foreign documents?

Foreigner's identity card

<https://poliisi.fi/en/how-to-apply-for-an-identity-card>

You can be issued with an identity card if:

- you are a foreign citizen permanently residing in Finland
- your personal information, including municipality of residence in Finland, is entered in the Population Information System, and
- you have a valid residence permit or residence card or your right of residence has been registered.

A foreigner's identity card is issued for **no longer than five years** or until the expiry of the applicant's residence permit or residence card, whichever is sooner. A foreigner's identity

card cannot be used as a travel document and **can only be applied for from the police**, not from a Finnish mission abroad.

When applying for a foreigner's identity card, you must present a valid passport or identity card. If you don't have either of these, you must present a valid residence permit card or residence card. In such a case, the authority receiving the application can take your fingerprints and compare them with the fingerprints on the chip of the residence permit card or residence card to verify your identity.

<https://poliisi.fi/en/how-to-apply-for-an-identity-card>

What happens if my documents are not accepted to get a National ID card?

Cases when an identity card is not issued

The authority issuing the identity card checks before issuing the card if there is anything preventing you from receiving an identity card with travel right.

According to the Identity Card Act, an identity card can be revoked if

- you are strongly suspected of having committed an offence punishable with at least one year of imprisonment and you are still the subject of a police pre-trial investigation or consideration of charges in the matter, or if you have been charged with the offence or wanted by the authorities.
- you have been sentenced to unconditional imprisonment which you have not yet served.
- you are a conscript and you have turned 28 and you haven't demonstrated that compulsory military service is not an impediment to issuance of identity card. In a situation like this, your identity card may be revoked until the end of the year in which you turn 30.

You are not issued with an identity card with travel right if you have been given a travel ban under the Coercive Measures Act or a ban on leaving the country under the Bankruptcy Act.

If a regular identity card cannot be issued to you for the above-mentioned reasons, you can be issued with an identity card without travel right but that can be used in online services.

<https://poliisi.fi/en/how-to-apply-for-an-identity-card>

Do I have to be a resident of the country to get a National ID card?

You can apply for Finnish citizenship if you have lived in Finland long enough for (4–7 years) and, among other things, have learnt a local language. Citizenship can also be obtained from a parent who is a Finnish citizen.

<https://www.infofinland.fi/settling-in-finland/finnish-citizenship>

What does it mean to be a resident of this country? How do I prove residency?

You may get a permanent residence permit if:

- you have lived in Finland continuously for four years with a continuous residence permit (the A permit); and
- the requirements for granting a continuous residence permit still exist.

The time period of four years begins:

- on the day of your entry into Finland if you had a continuous residence permit when you came to Finland; or
- on the first day of your first continuous residence permit if you applied for the permit in Finland; or
- on the day of your entry into Finland if you have been granted a continuous residence permit on the basis of refugee status or subsidiary protection.

If you have not yet been in Finland for four years, you may apply for a [new fixed-term residence permit \(extended permit\)](#).

What can I do if I do not have residency in this country?

If you already live in Finland but do not currently have residency you will need to apply for a Residence Permit if you plan to stay for an extended amount of time.

<https://www.infofinland.fi/en/moving-to-finland/non-eu-citizens/in-finland-without-a-residence-permit>

More information on how to register for a Resident Permit can be found here:

<https://www.infofinland.fi/en/moving-to-finland/registering-as-a-resident>

If you are unsure about your status or need assistance you can contact the Refugee Advice Centre.

They offer free legal services and advice on issues such as asylum, residence permits, family reunification, and the rights of undocumented migrants

You can reach them by phone at +358 9 2313 9300, or visit their office at Pasilanraito 9 B, 00240 Helsinki.

The office is open Monday to Friday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM and more information can be found by visiting their official website:

<https://www.pakolaisneuvonta.fi/en/>

Will I need a mailing address? What can I do if I am homeless?

If you do not have permanent housing, and you are not officially a tenant or a subtenant, you are considered homeless. In Finland, municipalities offer services for the homeless. These services are intended for those who have a municipality of residence in Finland.

You should find out whether you and your family members have the right to a municipality of residence in Finland. The right to a municipality of residence in Finland is determined according to the Act on the municipality of residence. You can check at the local Digital and Population Data Services Agency whether you have the right to a municipality of residence in Finland.

<https://www.infofinland.fi/en/housing/homelessness>

What is the application process? Can I complete it online?

You can apply for a standard identity card online or by visiting the police station of your choice. It is easiest to do this online.

<https://poliisi.fi/en/how-to-apply-for-an-identity-card>

1. **Have your passport photograph taken.** The photography studio sends your passport photograph to the Police electronically. You will receive a photograph retrieval code as a text message or e-mail message for attaching the photograph to the application.
2. **Fill out the application in the [online service link](#).** Attach the photograph retrieval code you have received to the application. Select delivery time and collection point. The system will tell you if you need to visit a police station. Pay the application fee online. You can also monitor the progress of your application online.
3. **Book an appointment with the [online service link](#)** if you need to visit a police station in order to apply. Remember to take your current passport or identity card with you if you have one.
4. **Pick up your new identity card** from the collection point you chose when you receive the collection note.

If you cannot or do not want to submit the application online, you can also do so at a police station. Please note that submitting the application online is cheaper and quicker.

Online application forms are available for standard identity cards, a minor's identity card without travel right and a foreigner's identity card. You cannot apply for a temporary identity card online. [pe answer here](#)

If you are a minor, you can submit an [online application link](#) for a minor online the same as for adults, but almost all minors are required to visit a police station for identification.

A visit is needed if the applicant's previous passport or identity card was issued when they were under 12 years of age. This applies even if the applicant is still under 12 years of age. Children's identity verification is done particularly carefully since the facial features of minors change quickly.

The chip in the personal ID card accepted as a travel document, issued on 2 August 2021 or thereafter, contains the holder's biometric identifiers, i.e., the fingerprints and facial image. However, the fingerprints are not taken from under 12-years-olds and so their only biometric identifier is the facial image.

Is there an application fee? Is there a waiver option if I cannot afford to pay it?

Licences and permits issued by the police incur fees. The prices of the licences and permits are based on the Fees Regulation of the Ministry of the Interior.

When you apply for an identity card online, you can pay by credit card or online banking credentials. If you visit a police station or other service point, you can pay by cash. If you apply for a passport and an identity card at the same time, you will be charged a lower price for the identity card.

- Identity card EUR 60
- Identity card when the application has been submitted online: EUR 54
- Identity card when the application has been submitted at the same time as the passport application EUR 52
- Identity card when the application has been submitted online and at the same time as the passport application EUR 46
- Alien's identity card EUR 60
- Alien's identity card, electronic application EUR 54
- A minor's identity card without travel right EUR 40
- A minor's identity card without travel right when the application has been submitted online EUR 34
- A minor's identity card without travel right when the application has been submitted at the same time as the passport application EUR 32
- A minor's identity card without travel right when the application has been submitted online at the same time as the passport application EUR 26
- Temporary identity card EUR 36
- Unlocking a locked identity card EUR 23

<https://poliisi.fi/en/how-to-apply-for-an-identity-card>

How old do I have to be to apply for a National ID card by myself?

18. If you under the age of 18, you will need to apply in person at a police station with your guardian's consent in person or in writing. For more information see section [Identify card for a minor](#).

What can I do if I do not have a parent or guardian who can go with me (and the application says I have to have one)?

18. If you under the age of 18, you will need to apply in person at a police station with your guardian's consent in person or in writing. For more information see section [Identify card for a minor](#).

At what age can I get a National ID card by myself?

18. If you under the age of 18, you will need to apply in person at a police station with your guardian's consent in person or in writing. For more information see section [Identify card for a minor](#).

Are there any special provisions for foster youth (children in custody of the government)?

As a guardian you can apply for an identity card for the minor whose guardian you are, but the minor must come with you when you visit a police station.

For online applications, the person applying for an identity card must always use their own electronic identification credentials.

If you are a guardian, you can submit an identity card application on behalf of your dependent also in this case.

For information, see section [Identity card for a minor](#).

Are there any special provisions for homeless youth?

Temporary identity card

You can be issued with a temporary identity card on application, for example, if the documents verifying your identity have got lost or stolen. In that case, a temporary identity card will generally be valid until you receive a new identity document.

You will receive the temporary identity card with you from a police station, and it is valid for no more than four months. You cannot submit the passport photograph needed for a temporary identity card electronically, but you must append two paper photographs to the application. You cannot use a temporary identity card as a travel document, nor does it have a chip allowing you to use online services. You can only apply for the card from the police, not from a Finnish mission abroad.

<https://poliisi.fi/en/how-to-apply-for-an-identity-card>

If you are Homeless

If you do not have permanent housing, and you are not officially a tenant or a subtenant, you are considered homeless. In Finland, municipalities offer services for the homeless. These services are intended for those who have a [municipality of residence in Finland](#).

If you become homeless, contact the social services office or social clinic of your municipality of residence. They will help you when you are looking for a flat or temporary housing. Temporary housing could be in a dorm, a night shelter or a flat intended for the homeless. Go over your situation with a social worker: how much rent you are able to pay, and whether you are eligible for any financial aid for your rent. You can also ask for advice from the guidance service for immigrants provided by your municipality of residence.

You can check at the local Digital and Population Data Services Agency whether you have the right to a municipality of residence in Finland.

Your municipality of residence can be in Finland if:

- you are a Finnish citizen
- you are a citizen of a Nordic country
- you are a resident of an EU country, Switzerland or Lichtenstein and have registered your right of residence in Finland
- you have a valid permanent (P) or continuous (A) residence permit
- you are a family member of a person who has a municipality of residence in Finland
- If you have a valid temporary residence permit (B), you may have a Finnish municipality of residence, but only if you can demonstrate that you intend to live in Finland permanently.

Will I have to take a test?

No tests are required.

<https://poliisi.fi/en/how-to-apply-for-an-identity-card>

Driver's License

What organization issues a driver's license in this country?

Finnish Transport and Communications Agency or in short:

Traficom

<https://www.traficom.fi/en/services/first-driving-licence>

What is the process for getting a driver's license?

You need a driving licence permit prior to obtaining a driving licence. The minimum age for receiving a permit is 16. The permit is valid for three years. The permit is the prerequisite for taking a driving examination.

When applying for a driving licence permit you must submit:

2 passport photographs

health certificate (no more than five years old) or a medical certificate for a driving licence (no more than six months old)

The written consent of a guardian if the applicant is under the age of 18 and is applying for a permit for driving a moped, a light quadricycle, a motorcycle or a tractor

A previous driving licence, if applicable. If you do not have a driving licence, take your passport or a photo ID card to prove your identity

A driving instruction certificate, if no driving test is required

[Driving licence permit | Ajokortti-info](#)

[Driving in Finland: Licences, Schools, Rules, Tyres, Vehicles \(expat-finland.com\)](#)

Where can I find information online about getting a driver's license?

You need a driving licence permit prior to obtaining a driving licence. The minimum age for receiving a permit is 16. The permit is valid for three years. The permit is the prerequisite for taking a driving examination.

When applying for a driving licence permit you must submit:

2 passport photographs

health certificate (no more than five years old) or a medical certificate for a driving licence (no more than six months old)

The written consent of a guardian if the applicant is under the age of 18 and is applying for a permit for driving a moped, a light quadricycle, a motorcycle or a tractor

A previous driving licence, if applicable. If you do not have a driving licence, take your passport or a photo ID card to prove your identity

A driving instruction certificate, if no driving test is required

[Driving licence permit | Ajokortti-info](#)

[Driving in Finland: Licences, Schools, Rules, Tyres, Vehicles \(expat-finland.com\)](#)

What documents do I have to have to get a driver's license? Is there any document that I must have to get a driver's license?

You can apply for the first driving licence using Traficom's e-Services online.

<https://traficom.fi/en/transport/drivers-and-vehicles/driving-licenses/driving-licence-permit>

The process includes:

- Order - Apply for your first driving licence using My e-Services
- Payment - Pay for your order (24 €). After you have paid, you must book a date and time for taking the driving examination tests with Traficom's service provider, Ajovarma. A separate fee is charged for taking the tests
- Test - Complete a driving examination (theory & practice). The driving licence will arrive at your home address within 6 working days of passing the driving examination.
- Fees:
 - Driving licence permit 24 € (www.traficom.fi)
 - Theory test 40 € or theory test with a translator 107 € + translator's salary
 - Driving test 99 €
 - Paimio track fee 70 € (optional expense)

In addition, the training lessons in a driving school must be calculated. Those will differ but calculate roughly EUR 500 - 2.000.

You need a driving licence permit before you can register for a driving examination.

Traficom can issue a driving licence permit for you if

- you fulfil the age and health requirements set for the relevant driving licence category (minimum age is 16)

- you are permanently living in Finland or you study in Finland and have continued your studies for at least 6 months, and
- you are not banned from driving or under a temporary driving ban in Finland or some other EU or EAA country.

A driving licence permit is valid for 3 years. When you come to the theoretical, handling and driving test, the driving licence permit must be valid.

The permit is the prerequisite for taking a driving examination.

When applying for a driving licence permit you need:

- 2 passport photographs, however, if you have a valid Finnish passport or identity card, you do not need new passport pictures for a driving licence.
- Assurance of good health or a respective medical certification <https://ajokortti-info.fi/en/maintaining-driving-skills/assurance-good-health-first-time-driving-licence-applicant>
- The written consent of a guardian if the applicant is under the age of 18 and is applying for a permit for driving a moped, a light quadricycle, a motorcycle or a tractor
- Your passport or a photo ID card to prove your identity

For the testing you need: <https://ajokortti-info.fi/en/getting-driving-licence/getting-driving-licence-passenger-car/documents-required-passenger-car>

<https://www.traficom.fi/en/services/first-driving-licence>

Documents required for a driving examination

Documents required for a theory test

- [Certificate of instruction and examination \(E100\) \(External link\)](#). You get the form at your driving school or instructor with a driving instruction permit. For the theory test, the certificate is only partially filled out and the remaining information is added after the test.
- A Certificate of the 4-hour training for candidates for first driving licences (EAS), if you are getting your first driving licence.
- A valid photo ID, such as a passport or a photo ID issued by the police.
- A signed guardian's consent form (pdf, 63.87 KB) (in Finnish) if you are exceptionally applying for a [passenger car driving licence at the age of 17](#). The guardian's information is verified from the population information system when registering for the theoretical test.
- You must also have applied for [a driving licence permit](#) and this must also be valid. The information of your driving licence permit is checked from the driver data register.

Documents required for the driving test

- [Certificate of instruction and examination \(E100\) \(External link\)](#). You get the form at your driving school or instructor with a driving instruction permit. For the driving test, all information has been filled out in the certificate.
- A valid photo ID, such as a passport or a photo ID issued by the police.
- Certificate of the risk training

Also a valid driving licence permit. The information of your driving licence permit is checked from the driver data register.

What if my documents do not have my correct name/address?

When applying for a Finnish driving licence permit (*ajokorttilupa*), it is essential that your identity documents reflect your current legal name and permanent address in Finland.

- Name discrepancies: If your name has changed (e.g., due to marriage or legal name change), you must ensure that this change is officially registered in the Finnish Population Information System (*Väestötietojärjestelmä*). Once updated, your new name will be reflected in official records, and you can proceed with your application.
- Address discrepancies: Your permanent address must also be up to date in the Population Information System. If you've moved, you should report your new address to the Digital and Population Data Services Agency (*Digi- ja väestötietovirasto*).

If your documents do not match the information in the Population Information System, you may be required to provide additional documentation or update your records before your application can be processed.

<https://traficom.fi/en/transport/drivers-and-vehicles/driving-licenses/driving-licence-permit>
<https://www.suomi.fi/services/driving-licence-permit-for-first-driving-licence-the-finnish-transport-and-communications-agency-trafficom/905fe9c7-5385-452b-8e90-6f6d10f1dfe5>

What if I only have foreign documents?

Contact our customer service by email at [inquiries\(at\)ajovarma.fi](mailto:inquiries(at)ajovarma.fi)

Other matters related to driving licences:

Traficom's customer service

[Contact form \(External link\)](#)

Traficom's telephone service

tel. +358 29 534 5113

Mon–Fri 8.00–16.15

[Finland - International Driving Permit - Official Document](#)

To exchange your driving licence, go to an Ajovarma office. You can find more information in Ajokortti-info. Ajovarma Exchanging a foreign driving licence for a Finnish licence (Ajokortti-info) Getting a new driving licence.

[Driving licences in Finland | Nordic cooperation \(norden.org\)](#)

What happens if my documents are not accepted to get a driver's license?

Contact our customer service by email at [inquiries\(at\)ajovarma.fi](mailto:inquiries(at)ajovarma.fi)

Other matters related to driving licences:

Traficom's customer service

[Contact form \(External link\)](#)

Traficom's telephone service

tel. +358 29 534 5113

Mon–Fri 8.00–16.15

Do I have to be a resident of the country to get a driver's license?

In Finland, to apply for a driving licence, you must be a permanent resident of the country. This typically means you have lived in Finland for at least 185 days in the past 12 months due to personal or occupational ties. This residency requirement aligns with the European Union directive, which defines "normal residence" as the place where a person lives for at least 185 days in each calendar year because of personal or work-related ties

<https://www.norden.org/en/info-norden/driving-licences-finland>

https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/vehicles/driving-licence/get-driving-licence/index_en.htm

What does it mean to be a resident of this country? How do I prove residency?

Individuals are deemed to be resident in Finland if they have their permanent home or habitual abode in Finland or if they are present in Finland for a continuous period of more than six months. A temporary absence from Finland does break the continuity of the stay for this purpose. Despite a move from Finland, Finnish nationals are considered resident in Finland for three full calendar years after they have left the country, unless they prove they have had no essential connections therewith in the fiscal year in question. Residence may start or break off in the course of a year.

You may drive in Finland on the basis of a licence issued in an EU or EEA Member State for as long as the licence is valid. If you are permanently resident in Finland or have studied here for at least six months, you may exchange or renew a driving licence issued in an EU or EEA Member State for a Finnish licence, or apply for a Finnish licence in place of a lost, stolen or destroyed driving licence issued in an EU or EEA Member State.

- If your EU or EEA licence has *expired*, you must enclose a medical certificate with your application. You will *not* need to pass a driving examination if less than 2 years have passed since expiry of your Group 1 licence, or less than 1 year has passed since expiry of your Group 2 licence.

- Full information ajokortti-info.fi/en

https://www.expat-finland.com/living_in_finland/driving.html#finnish

What can I do if I do not have residency in this country?

You must be a permanent resident of Finland and meet the other conditions for obtaining a driving licence. If you have come to Finland to study at a higher education institution and want a driving licence, you can apply for a driving licence after you have studied in Finland for at least six months.

To obtain a Finnish driving licence, you always need a driving licence permit and a driving test, which consists of a theory test and a driving test. In addition, most licence categories require driving instruction before taking the driving test.

The age limit for driving licences and tests is different in different licence categories. For example, you can apply for a moped driving licence permit at the age of 14 and take a driving test at the age of 15. You can apply for a driving licence permit for a passenger car at the earliest at the age of 16 and take the driving test at the age of 18 or, with an age derogation, at the age of 17.

In addition, a medical certificate may be required to obtain or renew a driving licence. If you have a driving ban or temporary driving ban in Finland or another EU or EEA country, you cannot get a driving licence permit in Finland. Read more on the Ajokortti-info website.

[Getting a driving licence \(Ajokortti-info\)](#)

[Driving licence permit \(Ajokortti-info\)](#)

<https://www.norden.org/en/info-norden/driving-licences-finland>

Will I need a mailing address? What can I do if I am homeless?

Yes, you need a mailing address for the

A driver license permit is delivered to the holder by posting it to their home address entered in the Population Information System. If the holder doesn't have a Finnish home address or cannot be posted for some other reason, the driving license permit will be delivered to the police department that granted it.

-its specified for first driving license:

Your permanent address is in mainland Finland.

- Driving licences will be sent to the customer's official address in mainland Finland, as stated in the population information system. If your address details are incorrect, please update them before paying for the service, using the Notification of change of address service of Post and Digital and Population Data Services Agency at www.posti.fi/changeaddress

<https://www.traficom.fi/en/services/first-driving-licence>

What is the application process? Can I complete it online?

Yes, but it depends on your situation.

Eligibility for Online Application:

- You must have a permanent address in mainland Finland.
- Your address must be correctly registered in the Population Information System.

Delivery of the Driving Licence:

- If eligible, your driving licence permit will be mailed to your official home address in Finland.
- If you do not have a Finnish home address, or if the licence cannot be mailed, it will be delivered to the police department that granted the permit.

Important Step Before Applying:

- Make sure your address is up to date in the Population Information System.
- You can update your address using the Notification of Change of Address service provided by Posti and the Digital and Population Data Services Agency:
<https://www.posti.fi/changeaddress>

More Information and Online Services:

- Visit the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency (Traficom) page for first-time driving licence applicants: <https://www.traficom.fi/en/services/first-driving-licence>

Is there an application fee? Is there a waiver option if I cannot afford to pay it?

Yes, there are several fees associated with obtaining a driving licence in Finland. As of the latest available information, the costs are as follows:

- Driving licence permit application: €35
- Theoretical test: €35
- Driving licence application: €25
- Practical driving test: €90
- Total exam-related fees: €185 (excluding driving lessons)

In addition, driving lessons typically cost between €1,000 and €3,000, depending on the driving school and number of lessons required.

Important Note:

If you fail to show up for your scheduled exams, 50% of the fees will be deducted.

Financial Aid or Waiver:

Currently, there is no publicly available information indicating that financial aid or fee waivers are offered for the driving licence process in Finland.

Source:

<https://skipissues.com/country-information/study-in-finland/how-to-get-a-driving-license-in-finland>

How old do I have to be to apply for a state driver's license by myself?

In Finland, the standard minimum age to obtain a Category B (passenger car) driving licence is **18 years**. However, individuals can begin the application process earlier.

- You may **apply for a driving licence permit** at the age of 16.
- With a granted **age exception permit**, you can take the theory test at 17.

Therefore, while you can initiate the application process at 16, you must be at least 17 years old to take the theory test, and 18 to obtain a full Category B driving licence.

<https://traficom.fi/en/transport/drivers-and-vehicles/driving-licenses/apply-age-exception-permit-driving-licence>

<https://traficom.fi/en/transport/drivers-and-vehicles/driving-licenses/apply-driving-licence-permit-your-first-driving>

What can I do if I do not have a parent or guardian who can go with me (and the application says I have to have one)?

In Finland, individuals aged 18 or older can apply for a driving licence independently. For those under 18, parental or guardian consent is typically required, especially when applying for a driving licence permit or an age exception permit.

If you are under 18 and do not have a parent or guardian to assist you, it's advisable to contact Traficom (the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency) or your local Ajovarma service point for guidance. They can provide information on alternative procedures or necessary documentation in such cases.

<https://traficom.fi/en/transport/drivers-and-vehicles/driving-licenses/apply-driving-licence-permit-your-first-driving>

<https://traficom.fi/en/transport/drivers-and-vehicles/driving-licenses/apply-age-exception-permit-driving-licence>

At what age can I get a driver's license card by myself?

In Finland, you can obtain a **Category B (passenger car)** driving licence at the age of **18**. However, under certain conditions, individuals aged **17** can apply for an **age exception permit**. This permit allows them to take the driving test and obtain a licence earlier, provided they meet specific criteria, such as:

- Long distances to school or work
- Lack of public transportation
- Health-related reasons

The application for an age exception permit must be submitted by the young person's guardian.

<https://traficom.fi/en/transport/drivers-and-vehicles/driving-licenses/apply-age-exception-permit-driving-licence>

Are there any special provisions for foster youth (children in custody of the government)?

While there are no specific national provisions exclusively for foster youth regarding driving licences in Finland, local authorities and social services may provide support. This support can include assistance with:

- Covering the costs of driving lessons and tests
- Providing necessary documentation
- Guidance through the application process

It's recommended for foster youth to consult with their assigned social worker or local social services to explore available support options.

<https://traficom.fi/en/transport/drivers-and-vehicles/driving-licenses/apply-age-exception-permit-driving-licence>

Are there any special provisions for homeless youth?

There are no specific provisions for homeless youth in the Finnish driving licence application process. However, to apply for a driving licence, you must have a **permanent address** registered in Finland. Homeless individuals can:

- Register an address through local social services
- Seek assistance from shelters or support organizations to obtain necessary documentation

It's advisable for homeless youth to contact local social services for guidance and support in the application process.

<https://www.redcross.fi/get-help-and-support/youth-shelters/itsenaistymisen-tuki/>

Will I have to take a test?

Yes - The purpose of the [driving examination](#) is to ensure that you have command of the contents of driving instruction, are able to apply these in various traffic situations and

environments, and are able to act as a responsible driver in traffic. The driving examination includes a theory and driving test. For more (in Finnish) about the contents of the handling and driving test, see [here](#).

You can take the [theory test](#) one month before turning 18. You must take with you the certificate of the training for candidates for first driving licences (EAS) if you are getting your first driving licence.

To take the [driving test](#), you must have passed the theory test. You must take with you the **original, paper** certificate of instruction and examination (E100) given to you by the driving school or your instructor with a driving instruction permit as well as the certificate of the risk training. You can take the driving test once you have turned 18. <https://ajokortti-info.fi/en/getting-driving-licence/getting-driving-licence-passenger-car>

If applicable, do I have to make an appointment to take the test?

Yes.

Ajovarma is Traficom's service provider. You can manage all application and permit issues related to driving licences at Ajovarma offices. Ajovarma also provides the driving examination services.

Booking an appointment in advance with the driving licence and permit services will save your time. Ajovarma's national customer helpline provides advice and service at +358 75 323 9999 on weekdays Mon-Fri at 8-15.45 (price of phone call: local network charge/mobile call charge) and by e-mail at [inquiries\(at\)ajovarma.fi](mailto:inquiries(at)ajovarma.fi).

<https://ajokortti-info.fi/en/getting-driving-licence/getting-driving-licence-passenger-car>

Birth Certificate

What is the document detailing a person's birth called in this country?

The birth certificate is called Syntymätodistus in Finnish.

<https://dvv.fi/en/birth-certificate>

<https://um.fi/registration-of-birth-in-the-population-information-system>

I'm not sure I have a birth certificate, what can I do to find out if I have one and where to get it?

Before ordering your birth certificate, you can find out if there is any information about you in Finland.

Source: <https://www.suomi.fi/your-data/personal-data>

To order your birth certificate, you can either:

- call the Finish Digital and population Data Agency on this phone number +358 295 536 230 (Monday through Friday 9am until 3pm), or
- send an email to vtj-todistus@dvv.fi (including your name, date of birth and address, what information you need on the certificate and why you need the certificate).

Sources: <https://dvv.fi/en/birth-certificate#>.

<https://www.suomi.fi/services/eservice/certificates-from-the-population-information-system-service-digital-and-population-data-services-agency/c21cad93-f47d-428c-b414-3602e5e6fd16>

How do I get a copy of my birth certificate?

You can get a birth certificate from the Digital and Population Data Services Agency <https://dvv.fi/en/individuals>. They have a walk-in service (by appointment) at locations around Finland as listed here <https://dvv.fi/en/Service-locations>. Telephone number +358 295 536 230

It can also be done by emailing an application to the Agency at vtj-todistus@dvv.fi. The basic charge is €14.

It is cheaper and quicker to do it online via their self-service facility. <https://todistukset.maistraatti.fi/en/>. The basic charge is €10.

Can I order my birth certificate online?

Yes. It can be ordered online here <https://dvv.fi/en/birth-certificate#:~:text=You%20can%20order%20a%20certificate.by%20making%20an%20online%20payment>

What documents will I need to get my birth certificate?

You need identification. Identification options are contained here

<https://tunnistautuminen.suomi.fi/sivut/discovery-page/?entityId=todistukset.maistraatti.fi.2023-04-25&timeout=295&tid=d50a0tqtabf2qp0rlcbbfee5u&pid=da4048e5eec16da34d939f1410759a28a35d23a4e1011022db7c02f7d0f09537&tag=2210271345772b&authMethdReq=eLoA2:fLoA2:fLoA3:eLoA3&conversation=e2s1>

What happens if I don't have some or all of the documents that are required?

You do not need documents. You need your name, date of birth and address. <https://dvv.fi/en/birth-certificate>

How old do I have to be to get a copy of my birth certificate by myself?

In Finland, you have to be at least 18 years old to get a copy of your birth certificate by yourself.

If you are under the age of 18, you will need a parent or a guardian to apply for one for you.

What can I do if I do not have a parent or guardian who can go with me to get a birth certificate (and the application says I have to have one)?

If you are under 18 years old and do not have a parent or guardian who can apply for a birth certificate for you, please contact the Digital and Population Data Services Agency.

You can phone them on +358 295 536 230. They are open Monday - Friday from 9am to 3pm. You can also email them on this email address: vtj-todistus@dvv.fi

If you need further help, advice or assistance, please contact your local Ohjaamo. There are around 70 Ohjaamo One Stop Guidance Centre's in Finland. They can provide support and guidance to people under the age of 30 on just about any subject of concern a young person

might have. If you don't know where to start, start at an Ohjaamo. See their website for more details on how to contact them or where you can visit them.

<https://ohjaamot.fi/en/etusivu>

What is the cost to get a birth certificate?

The fees for ordering online are

Self Service

You pay for the certificates when placing your order.

- Electronic certificate from the self-service, €10/document
- Certificate from the self-service by post, €14/document
- Certificate and multilingual EU standard form by post, €24/person
- Certificate and Apostille by post from the self-service, €44/person

e-mail

- You will be sent the invoice separately.
- Extract/certificate €18/document
- Report on family relationships €30/document and from the digitalized civil / population registers €60/document
- Manually prepared extract/certificate €60/document
- Multilingual EU standard form attached to the extract/certificate (translation assistance form) €10/document
- Apostille €30/document

<https://dvv.fi/en/birth-certificate#:~:text=You%20can%20order%20a%20certificate,by%20making%20an%20online%20payment.>

Is there a waiver if I cannot afford the fee?

There is not much information on the Finnish Government's website on any waivers you get if you can't afford the fee. It could help to get in touch with Digital and Population Data Services Agency. This is the department that handles birth certificate applications.

You can phone them on +358 295 536 230. They are open Monday - Friday from 9am to 3pm. You can also email them on this email address: vtj-todistus@dvv.fi

Visiting your local Ohjaamo could also help.

There are around 70 Ohjaamo One Stop Guidance Centre's in Finland. They can provide support and guidance to people under the age of 30 on just about any subject of concern a

young person might have. If you don't know where to start, start at an Ohjaamo. See their website for more details on how to contact them or where you can visit them.

<https://ohjaamot.fi/en/etusivu>

Are there any special laws or provisions that can help get a birth certificate if I have been in the foster care system (children in custody of the government)?

Nothing found on any special laws or provisions.

If you need help, advice or assistance, you can phone the Digital and Population Data Services Agency on +358 295 536 230. They are open Monday through Friday from 9am until 3pm or you can send them an email: vtj-todistus@dvv.fi.

You can also contact your local Ohjaamo. There are around 70 Ohjaamo One Stop Guidance Centre's in Finland. They can provide support and guidance to people under the age of 30 on just about any subject of concern a young person might have. See their website for more details on how to contact them or where you can visit them.

<https://ohjaamot.fi/en/etusivu>

Are there any special laws or provisions that can help get a birth certificate if I am homeless?

Nothing found on any special laws or provisions.

If you need help, advice or assistance, please contact your local Ohjaamo. There are around 70 Ohjaamo One Stop Guidance Centre's in Finland. They can provide support and guidance to people under the age of 30 on just about any subject of concern a young person might have. See their website for more details on how to contact them or where you can visit them.

<https://ohjaamot.fi/en/etusivu>

You can also contact the Association for the homeless: <https://www.vvary.fi/in-english/>

Where do I get my birth certificate if I was born in another country?

You need to obtain your birth certificate from that other state.

Births of Finnish citizens outside Finland must be notified to the Digital and Population Data Agency. <https://finlandabroad.fi/web/gbr/birth-registration>

You can also submit the notification at a Finnish embassy or send it there to be posted to the Local Register Office for registration.

The notification form is here

<https://dvv.fi/documents/16079645/17653494/Notification+of+child+born+outside+Finland/2dd64d48-e001-a72e-e91e-45087c81634a/Notification+of+child+born+outside+Finland.pdf>

The required documents (all may not be applicable) are your Birth Certificate, Statement on establishment of paternity/maternity, Custody decision, Clarification of a child's citizenship other than Finnish.

Is there a way to get my birth certificate without going somewhere in person?

Yes, you can either:

- call the Finish Digital and population Data Services Agency on this phone number +358 295 536 230 (Monday through Friday 9am until 3pm), or
- send an email to vtj-todistus@dvv.fi (including your name, date of birth and address, what information you need on the certificate and why you need the certificate).

Sources: <https://dvv.fi/en/birth-certificate#>.

<https://www.suomi.fi/services/eservice/certificates-from-the-population-information-system-service-digital-and-population-data-services-agency/c21cad93-f47d-428c-b414-3602e5e6fd16>

Where can I find information online about getting a birth certificate?

Digital and Population Data Services Agency

<https://dvv.fi/en/certificates-from-the-population-information-system>

Making Changes to Government ID Documents

What vital doc should I start with to change my name?

If you change your name you need to update your IDs

[Notify us of changes | Maahanmuuttovirasto \(migri.fi\)](#)

According to the [maistraatti](#) website, you can change your first name in Finland by sending an application via online, post or visiting the office. Changing your first name costs only 45€ and general names take 1-2 weeks to process. You do not need to be a Finnish citizen either, but you need to live here and be registered in the population information system in Finland.

[Digital and Population Data Services Agency's services for private customers | Digital and Population Data Services Agency \(dvv.fi\)](#)

How do I change my name on my birth certificate?

Notify the Digital and Population Data Services Agency of your **name change** in writing. You can use a form to submit the notification. Present the document issued by the foreign authority, in which the **name change** is indicated. If you are a Finnish citizen, you can also deliver the documents to the nearest Finnish diplomatic mission.

[Registration of a name change performed abroad | Digital and population data services agency \(dvv.fi\)](#)

How do I change my name on my National ID?

[Notify us of changes | Maahanmuuttovirasto \(migri.fi\)](#)

How do I change my name on my driver's license?

[Names | Digital and population data services agency \(dvv.fi\)](#)

At what age can I change my name by myself?

<https://dvv.fi/en/changing-forename>

<https://www.finlex.fi/en/laki/kaannokset/2017/en20170946.pdf> (s44 and s27)

If you are 15 or older, you can apply to change your name yourself.

If you apply to change your name and you are between 15 and 17 years old, your guardians will be asked about your name change.

You need to have a permanent address to apply to change your name.

What can I do if I do not have a parent or guardian with me to change my gender marker and do not have anyone else who can help me?

If you are 15 or older, you can apply to change your name yourself.

If you do not have a parent or guardian or anyone else to help you, you can go to Ohjaamo for help.

<https://ohjaamot.fi/en/etusivu>

What vital doc should I start with to change my gender marker? Is the process easier for one of the IDs?

Compared to many other countries it is relatively easy to change your gender marker in Finland as this can be done by self-declaration.

The key information you need to change in order to change your gender marker is the details about you in the Population Information System.

You can apply to confirm that you belong to another gender if the following conditions are met:

- You are an adult.
- You are a Finnish citizen or have a place of residence in Finland.
- You write a separate account of your feeling of permanently being of the gender to be confirmed in the application.

Your personal identity code changes at the same time when your gender is confirmed.

How do I change my gender marker on my birth certificate?

<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Children/BirthRegistration/Finland.pdf>

Birth certificates are not regularly issued in Finland.

<https://dvv.fi/en/birth-certificate>

If you need a birth certificate you can order one on the Population Information System with an online form, by email, or by calling the national service number +358 295 536 230

https://dvv.fi/documents/16079645/17653494/Extract_certificate+from+the+population+information+system+-+ordering+form.pdf/aa09deeb-274e-eb60-1434-631f1c65f2f4/Extract_certificate+from+the+population+information+system+-+ordering+form.pdf?version=1.1&t=1706542128000 (see info)

A standard birth certificate contains the following information about the person: Name, former names, date of birth, municipality of birth, country of birth, nationality, and current municipality of residence.

How do I change my gender marker on my National ID?

A person's gender can be recognised to be other than the one recorded in the population information system if they present an account explaining that they permanently identify as the gender they are seeking the recognition for. The person must have reached the age of majority and have Finnish citizenship or a place of residence in Finland.

The application for legal gender recognition will be based on the person's own account of their experience of gender. The person must submit a written application to the Digital and Population Data Services Agency, which will then inform them of the application process and the legal effects of gender recognition. After receiving the information, the applicant will need to confirm their application, however, no earlier than 30 days after the application became pending.

The purpose of this application procedure is to ensure that the person is making an informed choice and has considered their application carefully.

Here's how to proceed:

<https://dvv.fi/en/confirmation-of-gender>

<https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/-/1271139/act-on-legal-recognition-of-gender-enters-into-force-on-3-april-2023>

How do I change my gender marker on my driver's license?

<https://ajokortti-info.fi/en/changes-driving-licence/ordering-new-driving-licence>

The name can be changed by issuance of a new driver's license after your passport was changed.

Please note the EU driver's license does not have a gender marker.

https://www.kba.de/EN/Themen_en/ZentraleRegister_en/ZFER_en/FE_Klassen_en/Muster_en/muster_node_en.html

At what age can I change my gender marker by myself?

<https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/-/1271139/act-on-legal-recognition-of-gender-enters-into-force-on-3-april-2023>

You must have reached the age of majority (18 years) and have Finnish citizenship or a place of residence in Finland.

What can I do if I do not have a parent or guardian with me to change my gender marker and do not have anyone else who can help me?

In Finland, individuals under the age of 18 are currently **not eligible** to legally change their gender marker. The 2023 gender recognition law permits legal gender recognition through self-declaration **only for adults aged 18 and over**. This means that minors cannot update their gender marker in the Population Information System or on official documents such as passports or identity cards.

While the current law does not permit legal gender recognition for minors, support is available through organizations such as [Seta](#), Finland's national LGBTI rights organization. Seta offers resources and counseling services for transgender youth and their families. Additionally, minors seeking to change their name to better align with their gender identity may apply through the Digital and Population Data Services Agency (DVV), though parental consent is typically required for those under 18

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/finland-must-protect-trans-rights>

<https://www.gendergp.com/finland-plans-to-change-its-outdated-trans-law>

<https://www.iglyo.org/news/finland-february-2023>

Additional Resources

[Notify us of changes | Maahanmuuttovirasto \(migri.fi\)](#)

[Digital and Population Data Services Agency's services for private customers | Digital and Population Data Services Agency \(dvv.fi\)](#)

[Finland - Change Your Name \(Deed Poll\) \(amrfarouqa.website\)](#)

[Finland Guide: The Finnish personal identity code, The key to the Finnish services: Finland has an extensive \(justlanded.com\)](#)

<https://www.ajovarma.fi/en/>

[Entry requirements - Finland travel advice - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

<https://dvv.fi/en/birth-certificate>

<https://poliisi.fi/en/passports-identity-cards-and-permits>

Finnish Refugee Advice Centre <https://www.pakolaisneuvonta.fi/en/>

Ohjaamo is a useful one-stop-shop for young people in Finland. Support on wide range of topics available e.g. making applications: <https://ohjaamot.fi/en/usein-kysytyt-kysymykset>

[Finland Guide: The Finnish personal identity code, The key to the Finnish services: Finland has an extensive \(justlanded.com\)](#)

Applications for a passport and ID card in Finland are submitted to the police. With proof of identity the police can issue and review an application.

[Passports, identity cards and permits - Police \(poliisi.fi\)](#)

You can apply for an identity card either online or by visiting a police service point in person. Below is the online site

[Identity card - Suomi.fi](#)

Customer service for citizens

Helps citizens use the Suomi.fi services Call: +358 295 000

Disclaimer

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