

I Am Here: obtaining your identification and vital documents

Belgium

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National Identification Cards

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

It depends on your age and nationality:

1. if you are under twelve and:
 - (a) you are Belgian, you can obtain a Kids-ID (<https://www.vlaanderen.be/en/kids-id-electronic-identity-document-for-children-under-twelve-years-of-age>)
 - (b) you are foreign, you can obtain an identity document for a non-Belgian child (<https://www.vlaanderen.be/en/identity-document-for-a-non-belgian-child>)

if you are over twelve and:

- (a) you are Belgian, you can obtain an eID (<https://www.vlaanderen.be/elektronische-identiteitskaart-eid>)
- (b) you are foreign, you can obtain one of the fourteen types of electronic foreigners cards (<https://www.vlaanderen.be/elektronische-vreemdelingenkaart>)

What is the process for getting a National ID card?

It depends on your age and nationality:

1. if you are under twelve and:
 - (a) you are Belgian, see: <https://www.vlaanderen.be/en/kids-id-electronic-identity-document-for-children-under-twelve-years-of-age>
 - (b) you are foreign, see: <https://www.vlaanderen.be/en/identity-document-for-a-non-belgian-child>

if you are over twelve and:

- (a) you are Belgian, see: <https://www.vlaanderen.be/elektronische-identiteitskaart-eid#procedure>
- (b) you are foreign, see <https://www.vlaanderen.be/elektronische-vreemdelingenkaart#procedure>

Legal requirement to have an ID if over 12 and a Belgian citizen:

<https://www.wallonie.be/en/demarches/apply-or-renew-your-identity-card-e-id-walloon-region>

Identity card for Belgians living abroad:

Validity of an eID Card depends on age at application; EID costs €20 and application form found::

<https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/belgians-abroad/identity-card-belgians-living-abroad/identity-card-adults-and-children-older-12-eid>

You need to be registered in the Belgian National Register

<https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/belgians-abroad/registry/registration-certificates>

You need to have a residence permit <https://immigration-belgium.com/obtain-residency-in-belgium/>

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

Foreigners need to apply directly to the relevant administration in Belgium

<https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/belgians-abroad/registry/registration-certificates>

https://www.belgium.be/fr/famille/identite/carte_d_identite

<https://www.ibz.rn.fgov.be/fr/documents-didentite/carte-electronique-pour-etrangers/presentation/>

Immigration Office (French) <https://dofi.ibz.be/fr>

Immigration Office (Flemish) <https://dofi.ibz.be/nl>

Immigration Office (English) <https://dofi.ibz.be/en>

Brussels <https://www.brussels.be/registration-foreigner>

<https://www.justlanded.be/english/Belgium/Belgium-Guide/Visas-Permits/Residence-permits-Identity-cards>

<https://catalog.be.brussels/en/citizen/citizenship-documents/civil-status-identity-authentication/identity-cards/permanent-residence-permit>

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

You can only get an ID document after you have been registered with the relevant National Register.

You will also need to have residency:

- Filled-in application form

- Personal identification documents (a valid passport is mandatory)
- Visa-specific documents (employment contract, student's acceptance letter, proof of family relations, proof of business or investment, etc.)
- Other supporting documents such as photographs, proof of accommodation and financial means, proof of health insurance and others

<https://immigration-belgium.com/obtain-residency-in-belgium/>

Requirements will vary if you are an EU Citizen or Third Country national
<https://dofi.ibz.be/en/themes/third-country-nationals>

Residence documents for Belgium:
https://www.belgium.be/en/family/residence_documents_for_belgium

Passport, and other requirements

<https://dofi.ibz.be/en/themes/citizens-european-union/right-entry-and-residence/right-entry-and-residence-belgium-eu-2>

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

Any changes to name and address need to be updated in the Belgian National Register

<https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/belgians-abroad/registry/registration-certificates>

What if I only have foreign documents?

You can apply with foreign documents but may be required to have them transposed / legalised for us in Belgium

<https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/legalisation-documents/legalisation-more-detailed-information/how-can-foreign-documents-be-legalised-use-belgium>

Residence documents for Belgium:

https://www.belgium.be/en/family/residence_documents_for_belgium

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

If your documents are not accepted, your application could be rejected. Docs could be rejected if not properly translated, legalised or apostilled (depending on issuing country), or if not from a recognised authority. you may need to get them translated into the language of the municipality where you are applying

<https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/legalisation-documents/legalisation-more-detailed-information/how-can-foreign-documents-be-legalised-use-belgium>

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

Yes, in Belgium, you **must be a resident** to obtain a **National ID card** (eID) unless you are a Belgian citizen living abroad.

Who Can Get a Belgian National ID Card?

1. Belgian Citizens (Residents)
 - All Belgian citizens aged 12 and older who are officially registered in a Belgian municipality must have an electronic ID card (eID).
 - Children under 12 can receive a Kids-ID, which is optional but recommended.
2. Belgian Citizens Living Abroad
 - Belgian nationals living outside Belgium can apply for a Belgian ID card for expatriates if they are registered at a Belgian consulate.
3. Non-Belgians (Foreigners)
 - Non-Belgians cannot receive a Belgian National ID card (eID). Instead, they must apply for a residence permit if they live in Belgium.
 - EU citizens receive an EU residence card (E/E+ card).
 - Non-EU citizens receive a foreigners' residence card (A, B, C, D, F, etc.).

<https://www.vreemdelingenrecht.be/verblijfsdocumenten/elektronische-verblijfskaarten>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belgian_identity_card

Residency Requirement

- To get a Belgian ID card, you must be registered in the National Register at your local municipality (commune/gemeente).
- If you are not officially registered as a resident, you cannot receive a Belgian National ID.

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

When you are registered in the relevant National Register and you are legally entitled to stay in Belgium. You can obtain this information from your local municipality.

<https://dofi.ibz.be/en/themes/citizens-european-union/right-entry-and-residence/right-entry-and-residence-belgium-eu-2>

Proof can be obtained by obtaining a certificate of main residence:

<https://ibz.be/en/single-digital-gateway/certificate-of-main-residence>

details are held on Mon DOSSIER: <https://ibz.be/en/single-digital-gateway/certificate-of-main-residence>

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

To obtain a national ID card in Belgium, you must be legally residing in the country. This applies to both Belgian citizens and foreign nationals.

If You Do Not Have Residency:

You cannot apply for a Belgian national ID card unless you are registered in the National Register as a resident. This requires:

Having a legal residence permit

Registering with the municipality where you live within eight days of arrival

Providing proof of an actual place of residence in Belgium

For Foreign Nationals:

You must follow the appropriate residence procedures based on your nationality and the purpose of your stay. Once registered, the municipality will initiate the process to issue your ID card.

More information is available on the official Belgian government portal:

www.belgium.be/en/housing/moving_to_belgium

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

To apply for a national ID card in Belgium, you are generally required to have a registered place of residence. This is because the ID card is linked to your entry in the National Register, which includes your official address.

If You Are Homeless:

There is no specific exemption from the address requirement for individuals experiencing homelessness. However, here are a few options:

1. Use a social service address: Some municipalities allow individuals without a fixed address to register using the address of a recognized social welfare organization or public social welfare center (CPAS/OCMW). This enables access to essential services, including ID issuance.
2. Contact your local municipality: Each commune (municipality) in Belgium may have its own procedures for assisting individuals without stable housing. You can inquire whether they accept proxy addresses or care-of addresses for registration purposes.
3. Seek support from social services: Organizations that assist homeless individuals can often help with the administrative process, including obtaining a certificate of residence or facilitating communication with local authorities.

For more information, you can visit:

www.ibz.be/en/single-digital-gateway/certificate-of-main-residence

www.arcenciel-international.be/infopoint/residency-in-belgium

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

If you are Belgian and live in Belgium:

- Where to apply: Your local municipality (commune).
- How to apply: Make an appointment and visit the municipality in person.
- Required Documents - check with your municipality. The required documents will likely include the following:
 - Completed application form
 - Your last Belgian identity card or, if you do not have one, your Belgian passport or other identify documents that you have
- **Cost can vary**, depending on the municipality, how urgently you need your card, and whether you are applying for the original or a replacement card.

If you live in the city of Brussels, you can find additional Information here:

<https://www.brussels.be/id-card#:~:text=How%20to%20apply?.by%20the%20FPS%20Home%20Affairs>.

If you are Belgian and live abroad (outside of Belgium):

You have to come in person, by appointment, to your consulate. You can find addresses for embassies and consulates here: <https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/embassies-and-consulates>

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

Yes, there is an application fee for obtaining a national ID card (eID) in Belgium. The standard fee is €20, regardless of the applicant's age.

If you are applying from within Belgium, some municipalities may charge a slightly higher fee (around €100) depending on the location and processing method.

Waiver Options:

There is no publicly listed national waiver policy for individuals who cannot afford the fee. However, you may:

- Contact your local commune to ask if they offer fee reductions or waivers based on financial hardship.
- Seek assistance from the Public Centre for Social Welfare (CPAS/OCMW), which may help cover administrative costs for individuals with limited income.

For more information, you can visit:

www.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/belgians-abroad/identity-card-belgians-living-abroad/identity-card-adults-and-children-older-12-eid

www.belgium.be/en/family/identity/identity_card

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

In Belgium, you must be at least 12 years old to apply for a national identity card (eID) by yourself. This applies to Belgian citizens who are registered in the population register of a municipality in Belgium or at a Belgian consulate abroad.

For more information, you can visit:

- https://www.belgium.be/en/family/identity/identity_card
- <https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/belgians-abroad/identity-card-belgians-living-abroad>

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)?

If you are a minor in Belgium and want to apply for a national ID card but do not have a parent or guardian to accompany you, the process becomes more complex, as Belgian law generally requires parental or legal guardian involvement for minors under 18.

What You Can Do:

1. Legal Requirement for Minors

For both the standard eID (12+) and the Kids-ID (under 12), the application must be submitted in person by the child accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. This is confirmed by the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs.

2. If You Have No Parent or Guardian

- You may need to be assigned a legal guardian through the juvenile court or social services.
- Contact your local Public Centre for Social Welfare (CPAS/OCMW) or municipality to explain your situation. They can help initiate the process of appointing a guardian or provide guidance on how to proceed.

3. Support Services

- Social workers or child protection services can assist in navigating the legal and administrative steps.
- If you are in foster care or under state custody, your caseworker or institution may be able to act on your behalf or coordinate with the municipality.

Resources:

- Kids-ID information: [www.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/belgians-abroad/identity-card-belgians-living-abroad/identity-card-children-younger-12-kids-id](https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/belgians-abroad/identity-card-belgians-living-abroad/identity-card-children-younger-12-kids-id)
- Certificate of identity for foreign children: [www.ibz.be/en/single-digital-gateway/certificate-of-identity-for-foreign-children](https://ibz.be/en/single-digital-gateway/certificate-of-identity-for-foreign-children)

- Brussels municipal guidance: www.brussels.be/non-eu-foreigner-card-children-under-12-years-age

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

In Belgium, you must be at least 12 years old to apply for a national identity card (eID) by yourself. This applies to Belgian citizens who are registered in the population register of a municipality in Belgium or at a Belgian consulate abroad.

For more information, you can visit:

- https://www.belgium.be/en/family/identity/identity_card
- <https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/belgians-abroad/identity-card-belgians-living-abroad>

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

There are no specific national provisions in Belgium that automatically grant a national ID card to foster youth or children in government custody. However, children in these situations are still entitled to an identity document, and the process is typically managed through their legal guardian or assigned social services representative.

Key Points:

- For children under 12, the Kids-ID is the standard identity document. The application usually requires the presence of a parent or legal guardian. In the case of foster youth, a court-appointed guardian or social worker may fulfill this role.
- For children in state care or foster care, the Public Centre for Social Welfare (CPAS/OCMW) or the youth protection services may coordinate the application process with the local municipality.
- The issuance of the ID card still requires the child to be registered in the population register of a Belgian municipality.

Resources:

- Kids-ID information: <https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/belgians-abroad/identity-card-belgians-living-abroad/identity-card-children-younger-12-kids-id>
- Residence card for non-Belgian children: <https://www.leuven.be/en/residencecard-children>
- Certificate of identity for foreign children: <https://ibz.be/en/single-digital-gateway/certificate-of-identity-for-foreign-children>

Are there any special provisions for homeless youth?

In Belgium, there are no specific national ID card provisions that directly address the needs of homeless youth. However, there are a few relevant legal and administrative pathways that may support access to identification:

- Right of Residence for Stateless People: As of **8 February 2024**, Belgium implemented a new right of residence for **stateless individuals**, which may include homeless youth who cannot prove nationality. This could help facilitate access to civil registration and identity documentation.
 - More details:
<https://www.statelessness.eu/updates/blog/new-right-residence-stateless-people-belgium-does-it-offer-sufficient-protection>
 - Official legal reference:
https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/cgi/article.pl?language=fr&sum_date=2024-08-22&lq_txt=f&pd_search=2024-08-22&s_edite=&numac_search=2024006724&caller=&2024006724=&view_numac=2024006724dx2024006724fx2024006724nl
- Municipal Registration via Social Services: Homeless individuals, including youth, may be able to register using the address of a recognized social welfare organization or Public Centre for Social Welfare (CPAS/OCMW). This registration is necessary to be entered into the National Register, which is required to obtain a national ID card.

Will I have to take a test?

No, you do not have to take a test to apply for a national ID card (eID) in Belgium.

However, you are required to:

- Apply in person at your local municipality or consulate (if abroad)
- Provide biometric data, including fingerprints and a photo
- Present required documents, such as your current ID (if renewing), proof of residence, and a recent photo (unless taken on-site)

This process is for identity verification only—there is no written or oral test involved.

For more details, you can visit:

- <https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/belgians-abroad/identity-card-belgians-living-abroad/identity-card-adults-and-children-older-12-eid>
- <https://www.brussels.be/id-card>

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

Not applicable.

Driver's License

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

In Belgium, driving licenses are issued by local municipal administrations i.e., Local council for regions in Flanders, Wallonia, and the Brussels-Capital (Communes/Gemeenten).

In Belgium, driving licenses are issued by local municipal administrations—this means the commune (municipality) where you are officially registered. The process and requirements may vary slightly depending on the region:

- Flanders: Local councils manage the process. Full details are available at <https://www.vlaanderen.be/en/mobility/how-to-obtain-a-category-b-driving-licence>
- Wallonia: You apply through your municipality. More information is at <https://www.wallonie.be/en/demarches/obtain-your-driving-licence-your-municipality>
- Brussels-Capital Region: Applications are handled by the local commune. Details are available at <https://www.brussels.be/belgian-driving-licence-full>

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

Obtaining a driving license in Belgium involves several steps, which can vary slightly depending on the region: Flanders, Wallonia, or Brussels-Capital.

Below is a general overview, followed by region-specific details.

1. **Take theoretical test.** You must take a theoretical driving test at a recognised test centre. You must be aged 17 and have a Belgian residence card as ID to take the theoretical test.
2. **Test Details:** The test consists of 50 multiple-choice questions. To pass, you need at least 41 correct answers.
3. **Languages:** Tests are available in Dutch, French, and German. In some centers, you can take the test with the assistance of a sworn interpreter.
4. **Apply for provisional driving license.** After you have passed the theoretical driving test, you can apply for a provisional driving license which allows you to practice driving. Depending on your training method, the provisional license is valid for 12 to 36 months.
5. **Take practical test.** Then you must take a practical driving test at a recognised test centre. You must be aged 18 to take the test.
6. **Apply for a full driver's license.** After passing your practical driving test, you can visit your local council to apply for a full driving license. You need to bring your

residence card, your temporary license, proof of passing your practical test and money to pay for application (about 26 euros). You can then pick up your full license from the council later.

Region-Specific Details:

Flanders:

<https://www.vlaanderen.be/en/how-to-obtain-a-driving-licence-in-flanders>

- **Provisional License Options:**
- **With Driving School Training:** After completing at least 20 hours of driving lessons at a recognized driving school, you can obtain a provisional license valid for 18 months, allowing you to practice driving independently.
- **With Supervisors:** If you prefer to practice with one or two supervisors (who meet specific criteria), you can obtain a provisional license valid for 36 months.
- **Mandatory Training:** A refresher course is required 6 to 9 months after obtaining your full driving license to enhance traffic safety awareness.
- **Additional Information:** For detailed guidelines, visit the official Flanders website.

Wallonia:

<https://www.wallonie.be/en/demarches/obtain-your-driving-licence-your-municipality?>

- **Provisional License Options:**
- **With Driving School Training:** Complete 20 hours of lessons at an approved driving school to obtain a provisional license valid for 18 months, allowing independent driving.
- **With Supervisors:** Practice with designated supervisors after obtaining a provisional license valid for 36 months.
- **Documents:** Valid ID, proof of passing the theory test within the last three years, hazard perception test certificate, and a valid provisional driving license held for at least three months.
- **Additional Information:** Detailed procedures are available on the official Wallonia website.

Brussels-Capital:

- **Training Paths:**
- **Private Training:** Practice with a supervisor for a minimum of three months.

- **Driving School Training:** Complete at least 20 hours of lessons, after which you can practice independently.
- **Direct Access Pathway:** Complete 30 hours of driving school training, allowing you to take the practical test without a provisional license.
- **Additional Information:** For more details, refer to regional guidelines or local municipal offices.

<https://www.brussels.be/belgian-driving-licence-full>

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

[How to obtain a category B driving licence? | Flanders.be \(vlaanderen.be\)](https://www.vlaanderen.be/mobilit.belgium.be/en/road)

[mobilit.belgium.be/en/road](https://www.vlaanderen.be/mobilit.belgium.be/en/road)

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?

To obtain a driver's license in Belgium, you must provide specific documents at each stage of the process. These requirements apply across all regions—Flanders, Wallonia, and the Brussels-Capital Region—with minor administrative differences.

Required Documents

Identity Verification

- Valid Belgian ID card or residence permit (for foreign nationals)

Proof of Residence

- Registration in the National Register (population, foreigners', or waiting register) for at least 185 days

Step-by-Step Document Requirements

1. Theory Test

- Belgian ID card

2. Provisional Driving License

Belgian ID card

- Application document from the test center (after passing the theory test)

3. Practical Driving Test

- Belgian ID card
- Provisional driving license

- Proof of payment for the test
4. Full Driving License Application
- Application form issued by the test center after passing the practical test
 - Belgian ID card
 - Recent passport photo (must meet official specifications)

Additional Considerations

- Medical certificate may be required if you have a condition that could affect your driving ability.

Regional Information and Full Details:

- Flanders: <https://www.vlaanderen.be/en/mobility/how-to-obtain-a-category-b-driving-licence>
- Wallonia: <https://www.wallonie.be/en/demarches/obtain-your-driving-licence-your-municipality>
- Brussels: <https://www.brussels.be/belgian-driving-licence-full>

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

Discrepancies can lead to delays or rejections of your application and will need to be corrected.

To correct your name:

Visit your local municipal administration i.e., local council

to request a correction. Bring supporting document, such as birth certificate or passport to verify the accurate spelling of your name.

To update your Address:

Report your new address to the local municipal administration i.e., local council. This typically involve completing a declaration of residence and providing proof of your new address, such as a recent utility bill or rental agreement.

Local municipal administrations i.e., Local council for regions in Flanders, Wallonia, and the Brussels-Capital

For detailed information on the required documents and procedures, refer to the official portal of your region found below :

<https://www.vlaanderen.be/en/mobility/how-to-obtain-a-category-b-driving-licence>

<https://www.wallonie.be/en/demarches/obtain-your-driving-licence-your-municipality>

What if I only have foreign documents?

It depends on what foreign documents you are using. You cannot use a foreign passport to obtain a driver's license in Belgium.

If you are a resident or citizen of Belgium, you will need a Belgium national ID card (eID) in order to apply for a driver's license.

<https://mobilit.belgium.be/en/road/driving/driving-licences/foreign-driving-licences#:~:text=After%20registering%20in%20Belgium%2C%20you,European%20driving%20licence%20in%20Belgium>

Foreign driving licenses can be recognised

For the most accurate and up-to-date information, consult the official website of the Federal Public Service Mobility and Transport: Recognition of foreign driving licences

If your foreign license isn't eligible for exchange, you may need to pass Belgian driving theory and practical exams to obtain a local license.

1. License Issued by an EU/EEA Country:

- Validity in Belgium: Your EU/EEA driving license is generally valid in Belgium.
- Exchange for a Belgian License: While not mandatory, you may choose to exchange your EU/EEA license for a Belgian one. This can be beneficial if your original license is lost or stolen, as replacing a Belgian license is more straightforward within the country.
- Procedure: Apply for the exchange at the driving license department of your local municipality (commune/gemeente), for regions in Flanders, Wallonia, and the Brussels-Capital

2. License Issued by a Non-EU/EEA Country:

- Initial Period (First 185 Days): After registering as a resident in Belgium, you can continue to drive using your valid non-EU/EEA driving license for up to 185 days.
- After 185 Days: To continue driving in Belgium beyond this period, you must obtain a Belgian driving license. The process involves:
- Exchange Possibility: Some non-EU/EEA licenses from countries with bilateral agreements may be exchanged directly for a Belgian license. Check with your local municipality or regions in Flanders, Wallonia, and the Brussels-Capital to see if this applies to your license.
- Obtaining a Belgian License: If direct exchange isn't possible, you'll need to follow the standard procedure for obtaining a Belgian driving license.

Before applying, consult official resources or local authorities to understand the specific documentation and eligibility criteria.

Legalisation

You may need to have your documents legalised before you can use them in Belgium. Foreign documents must be legalised in their country of origin. If you have already obtained legalisation from the country that issued the document, you must also have the document legalised by Belgium's competent consular post for that country. Note that the documents drawn up in another language and destined for use in Belgium must be translated into French, Dutch or German.

Ensure Consistency: Make sure all personal information (name, address, etc.) is consistent across all submitted documents.

Obtain Certified Translations: For documents in foreign languages, acquire translations from certified translators recognized by Belgian authorities.

Embassies usually employ sworn translators, and some embassies issue standard documents for the translation of driving licences in consultation with the FPS Mobility and Transport.

No corrections are allowed on a sworn statement or on an embassy certificate. If an error is made, a new document must be issued.

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

Discrepancies in documents can lead to delays or rejection of your application and you will need to start the process again.

It's essential to understand the reasons for the rejection and take appropriate steps to rectify the situation. Here's what you can do:

Local municipal administrations i.e., Local council for regions in Flanders, Wallonia, and the Brussels-Capital

1. Identify the Reason for Rejection:

- **Incomplete or Incorrect Documentation:** Ensure all required documents are complete, accurate, and up-to-date. Missing or outdated documents can lead to rejection.
- **Non-Recognized Foreign License:** If you're attempting to exchange a foreign driving license, verify that it's recognized by Belgian authorities. Licenses from certain countries may not be eligible for direct exchange.
- **Translation Issues:** Documents not in an official Belgian language (Dutch, French, or German) may need a certified translation.

2. Steps to Address the Rejection:

- **Consult Local Authorities:** Visit your local municipal office (commune/gemeente) to obtain detailed information about the specific reasons for rejection and guidance on how to correct them.
- **Provide Additional Documentation:** If certain documents are missing or insufficient, gather and submit the necessary paperwork as advised by the authorities.

- **Obtain Certified Translations:** For documents in foreign languages, acquire translations from certified translators recognized by Belgian authorities.
- **Undergo Required Testing:** If your foreign license isn't eligible for exchange, you may need to pass Belgian driving theory and practical exams to obtain a local license.

By proactively addressing the issues leading to the rejection and ensuring all documentation meets Belgian standards, you can improve the likelihood of a successful driving license application.

<https://mobilit.belgium.be/fr/route/conduire/permis-de-conduire/beldrive-demande-de-permis/beldrive-demande-de-permis-de-0>

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

Normal residence:

It will be checked where you have your normal place of residence. Only citizens with their normal residence in Belgium can obtain a Belgian driving licence.

It will also be checked how long you have been registered in the population, foreigners', or waiting register of a Belgian municipality. You can only obtain a Belgian driving licence if you have been registered in Belgium for at least 185 days.

<https://mobilit.belgium.be/en/road/driving/driving-licences/foreign-driving-licences#:~:text=Only%20citizens%20with%20their%20normal,obtain%20a%20Belgian%20driving%20licence.>

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

In Belgium, **residency** refers to the official recognition of an individual's principal place of residence within the country. This status is crucial for accessing various rights and services, including healthcare, taxation, and social security.

How to Prove Residency in Belgium

To prove residency in Belgium, individuals typically need to present **one or more of the following documents**:

1. **National Register Certificate (Composition of Household - "Attest van Woonst" / "Attestation de Domicile")**
 - Issued by the local commune (municipality) where the person is registered.
 - Confirms that the person resides at a specific address.
2. **Residence Card or ID Card**
 - Belgian citizens: Electronic Identity Card (eID), which includes the registered address.
 - EU citizens: EU residence card (E/E+ card).

- Non-EU citizens: Residence permit (A, B, C, D, F, F+, H, etc.), depending on their status.

3. Recent Utility Bills or Lease Agreement

- Utility bills (electricity, water, gas, internet) with the applicant's name and address.
- Rental contract (lease) showing the applicant's legal residence.

4. Bank Statements or Official Letters

- Bank statements or government letters (e.g., tax office, social security) showing the applicant's name and address.

5. Employment or School Documents

- Employment contract or pay slips with the person's address.
- School enrollment confirmation for children.

Additional Notes for Special Cases

- **Minors:** Usually depend on their parents' or guardians' residency status.
- **Asylum Seekers/Refugees:** May receive temporary documents proving their address.
- **Homeless Individuals:** Some municipalities allow registration at a social service address.

See for example: <https://www.vlaanderen.be/en/certificate-of-main-residence-proof-of-residence>

For **minors in Belgium who do not have an ID**, proving residency depends on their legal status and parental situation. Here's how to obtain an ID as a Minor:

1. Minors Who Are Belgian Citizens (Without an ID Yet)

- If a Belgian child does not yet have an ID card (eID), their residency is typically proven through their birth registration and household composition certificate from the local municipality.
- The parents or legal guardians must request these documents from the commune where the child is registered.

2. Foreign Minors Residing in Belgium (EU and Non-EU)

- If a foreign minor resides in Belgium but does not yet have a residence card, their proof of residency generally comes from:
 - The parents' residence status (if they are legal residents).
 - A certificate of residence from the municipality.
 - School enrollment documents (which confirm the child's residence in Belgium).

<https://www.leuven.be/en/residencecard-children?utm>

3. Minors in Foster Care, Asylum Seekers, or Undocumented Children

For minors in more vulnerable situations, proof of residency may include:

- Social service registration: A child in foster care or state care may have residency documented by social services (CPAS/OCMW).
- School documents: If a minor is enrolled in a Belgian school, school records can serve as proof of residence.
- NGO or Legal Aid Support: Organizations like Caritas, Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen, or the Platform for Undocumented Migrants assist in legalizing the status of minors without documents.

<https://asylumineurope.org/reports/country/belgium/content-international-protection/status-and-residence/civil-registration/?utm>

<https://www.cgrs.be/en/unaccompanied-child?utm>

4. How to Obtain an ID for a Minor Without One

- **Belgian minors:** Parents must apply for a **Kids-ID** (for children under 12) or an **eID** (from 12 onward) at their local commune.

<https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/belgians-abroad/identity-card-belgians-living-abroad/identity-card-children-younger-12-kids-id?utm>

- **Foreign minors:** If not yet registered, they need to apply for residency based on family reunification, asylum, or other legal grounds.

<https://ibz.be/en/single-digital-gateway/certificate-of-identity-for-foreign-children?utm>

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

Apply for a permanent residence permit.

The documents required to apply for a permanent residence permit vary depending on the commune. In general, you should bring:

- Your valid passport and a copy thereof
- Proof of legal residence in Belgium for the last five years, such as previous residence permits
- Two recent identity photographs.

Further details found below:

<https://catalog.be.brussels/en/citizen/citizenship-documents/civil-status-identity-authentication/identity-cards/permanent-residence-permit>

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

Navigating driver's license requirements can be complex, especially when dealing with unique circumstances like homelessness. Here's a breakdown of the situation in Belgium:

Mailing Address Requirement:

- **Proof of Residency:** A core component of obtaining a driver's license in Belgium is proving your residency. This often translates to needing an official address.

[How to get a driver's license in Belgium | Article | The United States Army www.army.mil](#)

- Municipalities require an address to verify your identity and ensure you're within the jurisdiction of the municipality.
- Therefore, in effect, you will need to provide information relating to where you reside, and that information would be used for official mailing.
- Official Communications: Government agencies use mailing addresses for official communications, including license notifications, renewals, and potential traffic-related matters.

Homelessness and Addressing the Issue:

- Municipal Social Services: If you are experiencing homelessness, your first step should be to contact your local municipality's Public Centre for Social Welfare (PCSW).
- The PCSW can provide guidance and assistance in establishing an official address or alternative solutions, such as a registered address.
- These services are in place to help those in vulnerable situations.
- Registered Address: In some cases, social service organizations may be able to provide a registered address for official purposes.
- This allows individuals without a fixed residence to receive essential mail and access services.
- Legal Assistance: If you encounter difficulties, seeking legal advice from organizations that assist homeless individuals can be beneficial.

Key Considerations:

- Regulations can vary slightly between municipalities, so it's crucial to contact your local authorities for precise information.
- Prioritizing contact with social services is essential to access available support.

It is important to understand that the need for a registered address is strongly linked to the need to be registered within the national registry. Therefore, any work that is done with social services, will be very important.

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

An initial application for a driver's licence in Belgium needs to be completed at the counter, rather than online. Subsequent applications, such as for renewal or replacement, can be completed via the online platform BelDrive (<https://beldrive.mobilit.fgov.be/>).

To apply at the counter, you can make an appointment using <https://www.mybxi.be/en-US/appointments/pre-book/>

Please note that you will need to complete some additional steps before applying for the licence. For example, you will need to complete the Theory Test application at a recognized test center; see <https://www.mijnrijbewijsb.be/studeren/zoek-een-rijsschool/> for options.

See also:

<https://www.vlaanderen.be/en/mobility/how-to-obtain-a-category-b-driving-licence>

<https://mobilit.belgium.be/fr/route/conduire/permis-de-conduire/beldrive-demande-de-permis/beldrive-demande-de-permis-de-0>

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

Yes.

Each municipality has its own price for issuing a driving licence (both provisional and full licenses). The average price is 25 euros. There are also fees involved for the driving tests, which could be much higher.

We were unable to locate fee waiver options.

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

You must be at least 17 years old to apply for the theoretical test (which allows you to obtain a provisional license if you pass) and at least 18 years old to apply for the practical test (which allows you to obtain a full license if you pass).

Sources:

<https://www.vlaanderen.be/en/mobility/how-to-obtain-a-category-b-driving-licence>

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)?

The application process does not seem to require a parent or guardian. The applicant must be 18 to obtain a full driving license.

If you are not yet 18, you may need to wait to start the testing and application process.

If you arrived from another country without a parent or guardian, guardianship and other support services may be available through Service Public Federal Justice program - see <https://justice.belgium.be>

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

Apply for a permanent residence permit.

The documents required to apply for a permanent residence permit vary depending on the commune. In general, you should bring:

- Your valid passport and a copy thereof
- Proof of legal residence in Belgium for the last five years, such as previous residence permits
- Two recent identity photographs.

Further details found below:

<https://catalog.be.brussels/en/citizen/citizenship-documents/civil-status-identity-authentication/identity-cards/permanent-residence-permit>

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

In Belgium, there are **no special exemptions or alternative procedures** for foster youth or children in government custody when it comes to obtaining a **driver's license**. However, the **same legal rights and processes apply**, and support is typically provided through **guardianship or social services**.

Key Points:

- **Foster youth and unaccompanied minors** must follow the same licensing process as other residents, including completing the theory and practical exams.
- If a young person arrives in Belgium **without a parent or guardian**, they are typically assigned a **legal guardian** through the **Service Public Fédéral Justice**. This guardian can assist with administrative procedures, including applying for a driver's license.
 - More information: <https://justice.belgium.be>
- Additional support may be available through organizations such as **Caritas International Belgium**, which provides guidance and housing for unaccompanied minors.
 - See: <https://www.caritasinternational.be/en/asylum-migration/help-for-migrants/unaccompanied-minors-umr/>

Are there any special provisions for homeless youth?

In Belgium, there are **no specific legal provisions** that exempt **homeless youth** from the standard requirements for obtaining a **driver's license**. However, there are **support systems** in place that may help them navigate the process.

Key Points:

- **Proof of residence** is required to apply for a driver's license. This typically means being registered in the **National Register** of your local municipality for at least **185 days**.
- Homeless youth may be able to register using the address of a **recognized social welfare organization** or through arrangements made by the **Public Centre for Social Welfare (CPAS/OCMW)** in their area.

Support for Unaccompanied or Homeless Youth:

- The **Service des Tutelles** under the **Federal Public Service Justice** assigns legal guardians to **unaccompanied minors**, including those who are homeless or without parental care. These guardians can assist with administrative tasks like applying for a driver's license.

More info: <https://justice.belgium.be/fr/servicedestutelles>

- **Caritas International Belgium** provides housing, legal support, and guidance for **unaccompanied minors** and vulnerable youth, including those in transit or without stable housing.

More info: <https://www.caritasinternational.be/en/asylum-migration/help-for-migrants/unaccompanied-minors-umr/>

While there is no automatic exemption for homeless youth, these services can help them meet the requirements and access the necessary documentation to apply for a license.

Will I have to take a test?

Yes, in Belgium, you are required to take both a theory test and a practical test to obtain a driver's license.

Required Tests:

1. Theory Test
 - Must be passed before applying for a provisional driving license
 - Taken at an official test center
 - If you fail twice, you must complete 12 hours of theory lessons at a recognized driving school
 - More info: <https://www.drivinglicence-belgium.be/theory/the-theory-exam>

2. Practical Test

- Taken after completing the required learning period with a provisional license
- Includes a hazard perception test and a driving test on public roads
- If you fail twice, you must complete 6 hours of practical lessons at a recognized driving school
- Full process: <https://www.vlaanderen.be/en/mobility/how-to-obtain-a-category-b-driving-licence>

Preparation Resources:

- Drivinglicence-Belgium: <https://www.drivinglicence-belgium.be>
- Rijbewijs-online.be: <https://rijbewijs-online.be/en/belgium/driving-license>
- Theoriedoen: Offers practice exams and study materials (site availability may vary)

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

Yes, you will need to schedule an appointment at a recognized test center, such as:

- Brussels: [Automobiel-Controle & Techniek \(ACT\)](#) and [La Sécurité Automobile](#)
- Flanders: [GOCA Vlaanderen](#)
- Wallonia: [Autosécurité](#)

Where can I take the driving test? What can I do if I cannot get to a testing location?

You can schedule an appointment to take either the theory or practical test at a recognized test center, such as:

Brussels: [Automobiel-Controle & Techniek \(ACT\)](#) and [La Sécurité Automobile](#)

Flanders: [GOCA Vlaanderen](#)

Wallonia: [Autosécurité](#)

Do I need to get a permit or authorization to practice driving before I get my driver's license?

Yes, in Belgium, you must obtain a provisional driving license (also known as a learner's permit) before you are allowed to practice driving.

Types of Provisional Driving Licenses:

1. With Supervision (36 months validity)
 - You apply through your local municipality after passing the theory test.

- You must designate up to two supervisors who will accompany you while driving.
- You are only allowed to drive when one of the registered supervisors is in the car.

2. Without Supervision (18 months validity)

- You must complete 20 hours of driving lessons at a recognized driving school.
- If the instructor certifies you as competent, you can apply for a provisional license that allows you to drive alone.

Requirements Before Applying:

- You must be at least 17 years old to take the theory test.
- You must be at least 18 years old to apply for a provisional license without supervision.
- You must be registered in the National Register for at least 185 days.

Source:

- Full details: <https://www.vlaanderen.be/en/mobility/how-to-obtain-a-category-b-driving-licence>
- Additional guide: <https://passettonpermis.be/en/blog/provisional-driving-license-belgium>

Birth Certificate

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

The document is called a birth certificate and details all the information about a person's birth.

In Belgium there is a short-form and a long-form version. The short version contains only the individual's details and the long version, known as the full version or 'Afschrift van een akte – Geboorten / Geboortakten' (NL) or 'Copie d'acte de naissance' (FR) also contains details of the parents.

Source: Vlaanderen

<https://www.vlaanderen.be/en/birth-certificate>

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?

If you were born in Belgium you can request a copy or an extract of your birth certificate:

- A **copy** contains the original data of the certificate and the history of the status of the person to whom the certificate relates.
- An **extract** contains the current details of the certificate, without stating the history.

You can request a copy from the Civil Affairs Office of the local council. If you have an electric card (eID) you can request a copy online from either:

- via the e-desk of your municipality
- or via the certificates page of My Citizen Profile (['Mijn Burgerprofiel'\(opens in new window\)](#)).

You will need your identity card or resident permit to collect the copy or extract of your birth certificate. If you are requesting the document for someone else you will need:

- a power of attorney from that person
- and a copy of their identity card as well as your own identity card.

If you were not born in Belgium and a birth certificate has not been issued in Belgium you must request the birth certificate from the country where you were born.

If you have the Belgian nationality the birth certificate may have been issued in Belgium. You can check this with the Civil Affairs Office or the e-desk in the municipality in which you are registered in Belgium. To issue a birth certificate in Belgium, the foreign birth certificate must first be recognised and legalised in Belgium.

Source: Vlaanderen (Flemish Government website)

<https://www.vlaanderen.be/en/birth-certificate>

How do I get a copy of my birth certificate?

You can request a copy from the Civil Affairs Office of the local council.

If you have an electric card (eID) you can request a copy online:

- via the e-desk of your municipality;
- via the certificates page of My Citizen Profile ('Mijn Burgerprofiel'(opens in new window)); or
- via e-mail.

You will need your identity card or resident permit to request and to collect a copy of your or your child's birth certificate. If you are requesting the document for someone else you will need:

- a power of attorney from that person
- and a copy of their identity card as well as your own identity card.

Source: Vlaanderen (Flemish Government website)

<https://www.vlaanderen.be/en/birth-certificate>

Can I order my birth certificate online?

If you have an electric card (eID) you can request a copy of a birth certificate online from either:

- via the e-desk of your municipality
- or via the certificates page of My Citizen Profile (['Mijn Burgerprofiel'\(opens in new window\)](#)).

If you do not have an electric card (eID) you will be unable to order a birth certificate online. Instead you can request a copy from the Civil Affairs Office of the local council.

You will need an identity card or resident permit to collect the birth certificate. If you are requesting the document for someone else you will need:

- a power of attorney from that person
- and a copy of their identity card as well as your own identity card.

Source: Vlaanderen (Flemish Government website)

<https://www.vlaanderen.be/en/birth-certificate>

What documents will I need to get my birth certificate?

To get a copy of your own birth certificate or that of your child you will need your own identity card or residence permit.

To get a copy of a birth certificate for someone else other than your child you will need:

- a power of attorney from that person giving you authority to obtain a copy; and
- a copy of their identity card as well as your own identity card.

Source: Vlaanderen (Flemish Government website)

<https://www.vlaanderen.be/en/birth-certificate>

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

You will be unable to get a birth certificate without an identity card or residence permit.

https://www.belgium.be/en/familie/identiteit/akten_en_registers

<https://www.vlaanderen.be/en/birth-certificate>

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

In Belgium, there is no clearly defined minimum age stated in law for a person to request a copy of their own birth certificate. However, based on official guidance from regional authorities, including Flanders and the City of Brussels, the following applies:

- You have the right to request your own birth certificate, provided you can present valid proof of identity (such as an ID card or residence permit).
- If you are a minor, a legal representative (such as a parent or guardian) typically makes the request on your behalf.
- There is no explicit age threshold published, but in practice, the ability to request your own certificate may depend on whether you have an official identity document and are deemed capable of managing your own administrative affairs.

Sources:

- Flanders: <https://www.vlaanderen.be/en/birth-certificate>
- Brussels: <https://www.brussels.be/birth-certificate>

If you are under 18 and want to request your birth certificate yourself, it's best to contact your local municipality's civil registry office to confirm whether they will accept your request directly or require a guardian's involvement.

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 the application to obtain a birth certificate in Belgium requires a parent or guardian and you do not have one available, there are alternative individuals who may be allowed to assist you with the process.

According to guidance from the Flemish government, the following people may be permitted to request or assist with obtaining a birth certificate on your behalf:

- Full siblings (brothers or sisters with the same mother and father)
- A legal representative, which may include:
 - A foster parent
 - A social worker
 - A court-appointed guardian
 - A close family member such as a grandparent, aunt, or uncle

These individuals may need to provide proof of their relationship to you and possibly a written authorization or legal documentation confirming their role.

For more information, you can refer to the official Flemish government page:

<https://www.vlaanderen.be/en/birth-certificate>

What is the cost to get a birth certificate?

There is no charge for requesting a copy of a birth certificate.

If the document is to be used abroad (outside the European Union), there is a charge of 20 euros to be paid to the FPS Foreign Affairs to have the document legalised.

Source: Brussels Population & Civil Registry

<https://www.brussels.be/birth-certificate>

Is there a waiver if I cannot afford the fee?

In Belgium, there is no fee for obtaining a birth certificate or a copy of a birth certificate. This service is provided free of charge by local municipal administrations.

However, if you need the document to be used abroad, and it requires legalisation or an apostille, there is a €20 fee payable to the Federal Public Service (FPS) Foreign Affairs.

- Source: <https://www.brussels.be/birth-certificate>

Waiver Information:

There is no publicly available information on whether the €20 fee for legalisation or apostille can be waived for individuals who cannot afford it. If you are in financial hardship, you may consider:

- Contacting your local municipality to ask if they offer any support or fee waivers.
- Reaching out to the FPS Foreign Affairs directly to inquire about possible exemptions or reduced fees based on financial need.

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)?

In Belgium, there are no special laws or provisions that specifically address obtaining a birth certificate for children who have been in the foster care system or in government custody. However, the law does allow for a legal representative to request a birth certificate on behalf of a child.

Who Can Request a Birth Certificate for a Child:

According to the Flemish government, the following individuals are authorized to request a copy or extract of a birth certificate:

- The child's legal representative (e.g., parent, guardian, conservator)
- First-degree blood relatives (e.g., grandparents, siblings)
- A special agent with written authorization
- The child themselves, if they are of sufficient age and capacity

This means that if a child is in foster care or under state custody, a foster parent, social worker, or court-appointed guardian may request the birth certificate on their behalf.

More information is available at:

<https://www.vlaanderen.be/en/birth-certificate>

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

In Belgium, there are no specific legal provisions that automatically grant access to a birth certificate for homeless individuals, but there are practical pathways available to ensure access:

1. Online or Email Requests

If you have an electronic identity card (eID) or a residence permit, you can request a copy of your birth certificate:

- By email: For example, in Brussels, you can email etaticivil@brucity.be
- Online:

- MyBXL (Brussels): <https://www.mybxl.be/SignIn?returnUrl=%2Fen-US%2Farticle%2F%3Farticlepublicnumber%3DKA-01453>
- Mijn Burgerprofiel (Flanders): <https://www.vlaanderen.be/uw-overheid/mijn-burgerprofiel>

It is not clearly stated whether a mailing address is required when applying online, but having an eID is typically sufficient for authentication.

2. Using a Reference Address (CPAS/OCMW)

If you are homeless and do not have a fixed address, Belgian law allows you to use a "reference address" through the Public Centre for Social Welfare (CPAS/OCMW) in your municipality. This allows you to:

- Register in the National Register
- Receive official documents, including your birth certificate

More information:

- CPAS Brussels: <https://www.brussels.be/public-welfare-centre-cpas-ocmw-brussels>

3. Legal Basis

The right to use a reference address is supported by the Law of 24 January 1997, though the primary source is not easily accessible online. A summary of this right is available at:

<https://www.probono4homelessnesscovid19.org/belgium>

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

If you were born outside of Belgium in another and the birth certificate has not been drawn up in Belgium, you must request the birth certificate from the country that you were born in.

If you get your birth certificate from the country where you were born, it will need to be recognised and legalised in Belgium to allow it to be drawn up in Belgium.

The process for doing this is documented on the FPS Foreign Affairs website (links below). The Public Centre for Social Welfare can support this process.

When your birth certificate is drawn up in Belgium it will be registered in the Belgian civil status database (BAEC), and recognised by Belgian authorities. The advantages of this include making it easier to get official documents (e.g., residence card) and future copies your birth certificate. Once your birth certificate is registered in Belgium it meets all Belgian legal requirements, providing greater legal certainty and reducing the risk of issues related to documents in the future. It also makes a number of administrative processes easier, such as enrolling in schools, applying for social benefits, or getting married, as Belgian authorities can easily verify your birth details

If you have Belgian nationality, the certificate may have been drawn up in the municipality in which you are registered in Belgium.

<https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/belgians-abroad/registry/registration-certificates>

<https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/belgians-abroad/registry/birth>

<https://be.brussels/en/about-region/structure-and-organisations/local-authorities-and-municipalities/public-centres-social-welfare-cpas>

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

You can get a copy of a birth certificate online or via email if you have an electronic identity card or residence permit depending on the Municipality that you live in.

This can be done on the certificates page of My Citizen Profile ('Mijn Burgerprofiel'), or myBXL.

<https://www.brussels.be/birth-certificate>

Email

etatcivil@brucity.be

Online: MyBXL

<https://www.mybxl.be/SignIn?returnUrl=%2Fen-US%2Farticle%2F%3Farticlepublicnumber%3DKA-01453>

Online: Mijn Burgerprofiel:

<https://www.vlaanderen.be/uw-overheid/mijn-burgerprofiel>

Making Changes to Government ID Documents

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

- You may begin with a formal name change request, which is now processed through a simplified procedure introduced in July 2024.
 - For surnames, a Royal Decree is required.
 - For given names, a Ministerial Decree is sufficient.
 - This process is managed by the Service Public Fédéral Justice (Federal Public Service Justice), but under the new rules, local civil registries now handle most name change requests, making the process faster and more accessible.
1. Is the Process Easier for One of the IDs?
 - Yes. Once your name change is legally approved:
 - You can update your national ID card and driver's license by presenting the official name change document (deed or decree) at your local municipality.
 - The birth certificate is typically updated last, as it requires formal registration of the name change in the civil registry.
 2. Eligibility
 - This procedure is available to:
 - Belgian citizens
 - Recognized refugees
 - Stateless persons
 3. Key Requirements
 - A valid reason for the name change (e.g., personal, cultural, gender identity, or family-related)
 - Parental or guardian consent if the applicant is under 18
 - The new name must not be misleading or intended for fraudulent purposes

Resources:

- Flemish Government: <https://www.wallonie.be/en/demarches/changing-your-given-names>

- Federal Justice Service: <https://justice.belgium.be>
- Overview of the new simplified procedure: <https://www.keyseradvocaten.be/en/new-simplified-procedure-for-name-change-in-belgium-effective-since-july-1/>

How do I change my name on my birth certificate?

You can request a name change:

- Online via MyBXL: <https://www.mybxl.be>
- By email: etacivil@brucity.be
- In person: At the Brucity Administrative Center

A name change requires:

- A Royal Decree for surnames
- A Ministerial Decree for given names

More info: <https://www.brussels.be/change-name-certificate>

How do I change my name on my National ID?

After your name change is legally approved and updated on your birth certificate, visit your municipal administration to update your eID.

For urgent applications, you can collect your ID from the central desk in Brussels.

More info: <https://www.ibz.rn.fgov.be/fr/documents-didentite/eid/faq/>

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

You must first update your ID card or birth certificate. Then:

- Brussels: Make an appointment via MyBXL or visit the Brucity Administrative Centre <https://www.brussels.be/belgian-driving-licence-full>
- Flanders: Contact <https://mow-contact.vlaanderen.be/> <https://www.vlaanderen.be/en/mobility/how-to-obtain-a-category-b-driving-licence>
- Wallonia: Visit your local civil registry office with your updated ID <https://www.wallonie.be/en/demarches/obtain-your-driving-licence-your-municipality>

At what age can I change my name by myself?

- 18 by yourself
- 16 with legal guardian

Source: <https://www.brussels.be/change-name-certificate>

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?

A legal representative is required. This can be:

- A family member (spouse, cohabitant, parent, child over 18, heir)
- A third party who can demonstrate a legitimate interest in your request

More info: <https://www.brussels.be/change-name-certificate>

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

Start with your birth certificate. This is the foundational document that must be updated before you can change your gender marker on other IDs.

Source: <https://www.wallonie.be/en/demarches/changing-your-gender>

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

The process involves two steps:

1. **Declaration:** Make a formal declaration at the civil registry office (Births department) of your municipality.
2. **Confirmation:** Return to the same office between **3 and 6 months later** to confirm your request. A certificate will then be issued.

Appointments may be required depending on the municipality.

More info: <https://www.wallonie.be/en/demarches/changing-your-gender#endetail>

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

Once your birth certificate is updated, you must **renew your ID** card through your municipal administration.

You can start the process via MyFile: <https://www.ibz.rn.fgov.be/fr/registre-national/mon-dossier/>

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

You must first update your birth certificate or ID card. Then:

- Brussels: Visit the Brucity Administrative Centre or liaison offices. For urgent cases, email: permisdeconduire@brucity.be
https://www.mybxi.be/en-US/article/?articlepublicnumber=KA-01591#How_to_apply
- Wallonia: Go to your local civil registry office with your updated ID or birth certificate.
<https://www.wallonie.be/en/demarches/obtain-your-driving-licence-your-municipality#endetail>
- Flanders: A certificate of gender registration change is required. Submit it via your municipality or through Mijn Burgerprofiel.
<https://www.vlaanderen.be/en/certificate-of-gender-registration-change>

Source - <https://www.vlaanderen.be/en/certificate-of-gender-registration-change>

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

- 8 by yourself
- 6 with legal guardian

From the age of 16, **non-emancipated minors** may also have the sex listed on their birth certificate changed, provided that they are assisted by their parents or legal representative. They must also provide a certificate issued by a children's psychiatrist, confirming that their decision is based on a free and informed choice.

source - <https://www.wallonie.be/en/demarches/changing-your-gender#endetail>

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?

You will need legal representative, or power of attorney to a third party.

Source - <https://www.wallonie.be/en/demarches/changing-your-gender#endetail>

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