

# I Am Here: obtaining your identification and vital documents

Spain

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## National Identification Cards

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

The Documento Nacional de Identidad (DNI) is issued by the General Directorate of the Police, under the Ministry of the Interior. It serves as the official proof of identity for Spanish citizens and is available in both physical and electronic formats (DNle).

More information:

[https://sede.policia.gob.es/portalCiudadano/en/tramites\\_ciudadania\\_dnielectronico.php](https://sede.policia.gob.es/portalCiudadano/en/tramites_ciudadania_dnielectronico.php)

### What is the process for getting a National ID card?

How to Get a National ID Card (DNI) in Spain

#### 1. In-Person Application

- You must appear in person at a DNI issuance office of the Spanish National Police.
- This applies to both first-time applications and renewals.

#### 2. Appointment Required

You must book an appointment in advance through the official site:

<https://www.citapreviadnie.es/citaPrevialDni/>

(If the link is not working, try accessing it via a different browser or device.)

#### 3. Required Documents

- Recent color photo (32x26 mm, white background, no glasses or headwear unless for religious/medical reasons)
- Proof of address (empadronamiento) if your address has changed
- Birth certificate (for first-time applicants or changes in personal data)
- Parental or legal representative presence for minors or individuals with legal support needs

#### 4. Fees

- Payment can be made in cash, by card, or online during the appointment booking process.

#### 5. Electronic DNI (DNle)

- The DNI now includes a digital chip for electronic identification and digital signatures.

- You can update the digital certificates at DNle update points in police stations.

#### 6. More Information

- Full details and updates:  
<https://www.dnielectronico.es/PortalDNle/>
- Spanish National Police portal:  
<https://www.policia.es/es/index.php>

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

You can find official information about obtaining a National ID card (DNI) in Spain on the Ministry of the Interior's website at the following link:

DNI – Ministerio del Interior

<https://www.interior.gob.es/opencms/es/servicios-al-ciudadano/tramites-y-gestiones/dni/>

This page includes details on:

- What the DNI is
- How to apply or renew
- Required documentation
- Fees
- Where to apply
- Information about the electronic DNI (DNle)

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

In order to get the National ID you need the following documentation:

#### For the initial request of the ID

- **Literal certification of birth issued by the corresponding Civil Registry.** To these effects, only the certifications issued with a maximum of six months prior to the date of presentation of the application for the issuance of the National Identity Document and "with the express mention that it is issued for the sole purpose of obtaining this document" will be admitted, mention that will not be necessary in electronic Certifications of the Civil Registry of the new DICIREG system. (In the case of Autonomous Communities that have established their own language, they may



present in the territory of this one, a certification in the official language of this region, without the need of translation).

- **A recent color photograph of the applicant's face**, size 32 by 26 millimeters, with uniform, white and smooth background, taken from the front with the head completely uncovered and without dark glasses or any other garment that could prevent or hinder the identification of the person. (The photograph must clearly show the oval of the face, which includes eyebrows, eyes, nose, mouth and chin, and must be of high resolution and on good quality photographic paper).
- **Certificate or registration form from the Town Hall where the applicant is domiciled**, issued no more than three months prior to the date of the application for the National Identity Card.
- When the holder of the National Identity Card is under 14 years of age or a person with judicially complemented capacity, it will be carried out in the presence of the person entrusted with the parental authority, guardianship, or some other support for the exercise of the legal capacity, or person empowered by the latter.
- In those cases in which the first registration is made as a naturalized citizen and the citizen has a Foreigner's Identification Card (TIE) or Certificate of Registration of Citizen of the Union, in which the foreigner's identification number (NIE) is stated, he/she must provide it, as an indispensable requirement, at the time of the processing of the DNI).

#### For the renewal of the ID

The renewal must be carried out within the last 180 days of validity and for its processing it will be essential the physical presence of the holder of the Document, who will pay the corresponding fee (in cash or by telematic means) and will provide the following documents:

- A recent color photograph of the applicant's face, size 32 by 26 millimeters, with a uniform, white and plain background, taken from the front with the head completely uncovered and without dark glasses or any other garment that may prevent or hinder the identification of the person. (The photograph must clearly show the oval of the face, which includes eyebrows, eyes, nose, mouth and chin, and must be of high resolution and on good quality photographic paper).
- The previous ID card (in case of loss or theft, prior report or communication of such incident to the issuing team will be required). In case the chip falls out, the DNI-e must be treated as a damaged document, being its holder obliged to obtain a duplicate, as established in article 8 of the Royal Decree 1553/2005, of December 23rd, which states that "the replaced documents will lose the character of National Identity Document, as well as the effects that the legal system attributes to it with respect to its holder".
- In case of change of address, with respect to the one appearing in the previous Document, Certificate or registration form from the Town Hall where the applicant has his/her address, issued no more than three months prior to the date of the application for the DNI. These documents will not be necessary if the interested party authorizes, at the time of processing, the issuing team to consult the address data by accessing the Residence Data Verification System.

- If the registration in the Municipal Register has been made in the last two months, it is necessary to provide the certificate or registration receipt referred to in the previous point.
- In case of variation of data of filiation, Certificate of the Civil Registry, issued with a maximum of six months before the date of presentation of the request of expedition of the National Document of Identity.
- When the holder of the National Identity Card is under 14 years of age or a person with judicially supplemented capacity, it will be carried out in the presence of the person entrusted with parental authority, guardianship, or some other support for the exercise of legal capacity or a person empowered by the latter.
- The loss, theft, destruction or deterioration of the National Identity Document will entail the obligation of its holder to immediately obtain a duplicate (with the same data and photograph) whose validity will be the same as that of the document it replaces, unless it is within the last 90 days of its validity, in which case it will be issued with the same requirements and validity as if it were a renewal. In the cases of loss and/or theft, the citizen must inform, at the beginning of the issuance of the duplicate, if he/she has already filed a complaint about this circumstance (before the national police, civil guard, regional police, local police, duty court, embassy or consulate, etc. ? ); if he/she has not done so or does not have it with him/her at this time, the issuing official will complete, prior to the issuance, an administrative report of the loss or theft of the DNI, regardless of the fact that the citizen, if he/she deems it appropriate, may exercise his/her right to file a complaint at a later date, with respect to any other lost or stolen objects, not including the DNI.
- In case of theft, loss, deterioration or malfunction of the electronic chip, the DNI must be renewed as soon as possible, and a new document with its full validity will be obtained when there are less than 90 days left for its expiration. In the event that it exceeds 90 days, you will obtain a new one with the previous validity.

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

If your documents (such as your DNI) contain an incorrect name or address, you may take the following steps in Spain:

1. Go to the Issuing Authority

You must visit the authority or organization that issued the incorrect document—typically your local civil registry office or DNI issuance office (National Police).

2. Request a Correction

Request that the incorrect information be amended. You will need to:

- Explain the error
- Provide supporting documents that clearly show the correct name or address (e.g., birth certificate, utility bill, empadronamiento certificate)

3. Bring Valid Identification

Bring your current DNI or NIE, and any other documents that support your identity and the correction request.

4. Book an Appointment (if required)

For DNI corrections, you may need to book an appointment through the official site: <https://www.citapreviadnie.es>

Official Source:

- Ministry of the Interior – DNI Information: <https://www.interior.gob.es/opencms/es/servicios-al-ciudadano/tramites-y-gestiones/dni/>

### What if I only have foreign documents?

If you only have foreign documents, such as a foreign birth certificate, and need to apply for a Spanish National ID card (DNI), you must follow these steps:

Steps to Use a Foreign Birth Certificate in Spain

1. Translate the Document

The birth certificate must be translated into Spanish by a certified sworn translator (*traducción jurada*).

2. Legalize or Apostille the Document

- If the country where the certificate was issued is part of the Hague Apostille Convention, you must obtain an apostille.
- If not, the document must be legalized through the appropriate diplomatic channels.

3. Register the Birth Certificate in the Spanish Civil Registry

- You must register the translated and legalized/apostilled birth certificate at your local Civil Registry Office (*Registro Civil*).
- Once registered, you will receive a Spanish birth certificate, which is required to apply for a DNI.

More information: <https://datos.justicia.es/en/civil-registry-offices-old>

4. Apply for the DNI

After registration, you can proceed with the DNI application through the Spanish National Police.

Additional guidance on documentation for foreign nationals is available from the Ministry of the Interior: <https://www.interior.gob.es/opencms/es/servicios-al-ciudadano/tramites-y-gestiones/dni/como-obtener-su-dni/>

[gestiones/extranjeria/regimen-general/documentacion-de-las-personas-extranjeras/index.html](https://www.interior.gob.es/opencms/es/servicios-al-ciudadano/tramites-y-gestiones/extranjeria/regimen-general/documentacion-de-las-personas-extranjeras/index.html)

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

If your documents are not accepted when applying for a Spanish National ID card (DNI), you will need to:

1. Identify the Issue

Ask the issuing officer or check the rejection notice to understand why the document was not accepted. Common reasons include:

- Incorrect or outdated information (e.g., name, address)
- Missing required documents
- Documents not properly translated or legalized
- Expired supporting documents

2. Correct the Problem

You must return to the authority that issued the incorrect or incomplete document and request a correction. Bring:

- The original document
- Any supporting documents that prove the correct information (e.g., birth certificate, proof of address)

3. Reapply with Corrected Documents

Once the issue is resolved, you can reschedule your appointment and reapply for the DNI. Appointments can be made at:

<https://www.citapreviadnie.es>

Official Guidance:

- Ministry of the Interior – DNI Information: <https://www.interior.gob.es/opencms/es/servicios-al-ciudadano/tramites-y-gestiones/dni/como-obtener-su-dni/>

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

To obtain a Spanish National ID card (DNI), you must be a Spanish citizen. Residency alone is not sufficient—the DNI is issued exclusively to individuals who hold Spanish nationality.

- The DNI is a personal and non-transferable document that certifies both identity and Spanish nationality.
- Foreign nationals residing in Spain are issued a Foreigner Identity Card (TIE) instead of a DNI.

- Spanish nationality can be acquired through several pathways, including:
- Birth to Spanish parents
- Naturalization (typically after 10 years of legal residence)
- Letter of nature (granted by the government in exceptional cases)
- Option (for individuals with Spanish ancestry or legal ties)

For more information, visit the Ministry of the Interior's official DNI page:  
<https://www.interior.gob.es/opencms/en/servicios-al-ciudadano/tramites-y-gestiones/dni/>

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

The residence shall be (i) legal, (ii) continuous and (iii) immediately prior to the petition. This residence must have a different duration depending on the nationality or personal circumstances of the person concerned. The only valid titles for the residence to be legal for the purposes of computation for the acquisition of the nationality are the residence authorizations or permits foreseen in the legislation of foreigners.

The general rule requires a residence period of 10 years but there are other special cases where it is required a shorter residence period.

- Five years: for the granting of Spanish nationality to those persons who have obtained refugee status.
- Two years: for nationals of Latin American countries, Andorra, the Philippines, Equatorial Guinea, Portugal or persons of Sephardic origin.
- One year: (a) whoever was born in Spanish territory, (b) whoever did not duly exercise his right to acquire Spanish nationality by option, (c) whoever has been legally subject to the guardianship, custody or foster care of a Spanish citizen or institution for two consecutive years, even if he continues in this situation at the time of the application, (d) whoever, e) the widow or widower of a Spaniard, if at the time of the death of the spouse they were not separated, in fact or judicially, f) the one born outside Spain of father or mother, grandfather or grandmother, as long as all of them had originally been Spaniards.

In order to prove the residence in Spain, you have to request an official form called "Certificado de residente o no residente (HI93)" to the Ministerio de Interior. All the information is available here: <https://www.inclusion.gob.es/web/migraciones/w/certificado-de-residente-o-no-residente-hi93>

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

If you do not have residency in Spain, you generally cannot apply for a Spanish National ID card (DNI) unless you are a Spanish citizen and physically present in Spain.

Key Requirements:

- The first issuance of the DNI must be done in person at a DNI Documentation Unit in Spain.
- You must book an appointment in advance via <https://www.citapreviadnie.es>.
- You must provide proof of Spanish nationality, such as a registered birth certificate in the Spanish Civil Registry.

If You Are a Spanish Citizen Living Abroad:

- You must travel to Spain to apply for your first DNI.
- Once you have a DNI, renewals may be possible online or through Spanish consulates, depending on your situation.

Official Sources:

- Ministry of the Interior – How to Obtain Your DNI:  
<https://www.interior.gob.es/opencms/es/servicios-al-ciudadano/tramites-y-gestiones/dni/como-obtener-su-dni/>
- Required Documentation:  
<https://www.interior.gob.es/opencms/es/servicios-al-ciudadano/tramites-y-gestiones/dni/documentacion-necesaria-para-su-tramitacion/>

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

Yes. You need a mailing address in the sense that you have to identify your private residence. If you don't have a fix domicili, you can request the "certificado sin empadronamiento fijo" (certificate without fixed registration).

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

The application process shall be made present, it cannot be made online. However, if the applicant is ill, disabled or dependent, a mobile team will travel to your home or health center to do the application.

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

The fees varies:

1. First ID and renewal: 12 €. It can be paid in cash, credit card and through the web page.
2. Amendment of data of an ID in force: free

It is free for large families and children under 14 years of age who are part of a cohabitation unit applying for the minimum living income benefit.

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



To apply for a Spanish National ID card (DNI) by yourself, you must be at least 14 years old. If you are under 14 or have a legally recognized disability, the application must be made in the presence of a parent, legal guardian, or authorized representative.

Ministry of the Interior on their official page:

<https://www.interior.gob.es/opencms/es/servicios-al-ciudadano/tramites-y-gestiones/dni/como-obtener-su-dni/>

#### **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 Spain and need to apply for a National ID card (DNI) but do not have a parent or guardian to accompany you, the process becomes more complex and typically requires the involvement of a legal representative.

What You Can Do:

1. Contact Child Protection Services

You should reach out to the Servicio de Protección al Menor (Child Protection Services) in your autonomous community. They can help determine whether a legal guardian or state-appointed representative can assist you with the application.

2. Legal Representation

In the absence of a parent or guardian, a court-appointed guardian, foster parent, or authorized social worker may be able to act on your behalf. This is especially relevant for unaccompanied minors or children in state care.

3. Official Guidance

The Ministry of the Interior provides information on procedures for foreign minors, including those who are unaccompanied or under guardianship:

<https://www.interior.gob.es/opencms/es/servicios-al-ciudadano/tramites-y-gestiones/extranjeria/regimen-general/personas-extranjeras-menores-de-edad/>

4. Additional Support

You may also contact the Oficina de Justicia Municipal (OJM) for guidance on legal documentation and representation:

<https://ojm.justicia.es/-/informacion-y-registro>

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

To apply for a Spanish National ID card (DNI) by yourself, you must be at least 14 years old. If you are under 14 or have a legally recognized disability, the application must be made in the presence of a parent, legal guardian, or authorized representative.

Ministry of the Interior on their official page:

<https://www.interior.gob.es/opencms/es/servicios-al-ciudadano/tramites-y-gestiones/dni/como-obtener-su-dni/>

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

There are no specific provisions published online that apply exclusively to foster youth for obtaining a DNI. However, if a child is in the custody of the government or a foster care system, a legal representative (such as a court-appointed guardian or social worker) may assist with the application process.

#### **Are there any special provisions for homeless youth?**

There are no special provisions publicly available for homeless youth applying for a DNI. However, individuals without a fixed address may be able to register using a social services address or through assistance from local authorities. For youth in vulnerable situations, it is recommended to contact Servicio de Protección al Menor or local social services for guidance.

You can find information or request assistance related to child protection services (Servicio de Protección al Menor):

1. Comunidad de Madrid – Protección del Menor

This site provides detailed information on child protection measures, including guardianship, foster care, and state custody procedures:

<https://www.comunidad.madrid/servicios/servicios-sociales/proteccion-menor>

2. Ministry of Youth and Children (Ministerio de Juventud e Infancia)

This is the national-level portal for youth and child-related services, including procedures managed by the Dirección General de Derechos de la Infancia y de la Adolescencia:

<https://juventudeinfancia.sede.gob.es/>

#### **Will I have to take a test?**

There are no specific provisions published online that apply exclusively to foster youth for obtaining a DNI. However, if a child is in the custody of the government or a foster care system, a legal representative (such as a court-appointed guardian or social worker) may assist with the application process.

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

Not applicable. Since there is no test, there is no appointment required for testing.

However, you do need an appointment to apply for or renew your DNI. You can book it at: <https://www.citapreviadnie.es>.

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## Driver's License

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

Driver's licenses in Spain are issued by the Dirección General de Tráfico (DGT), which is part of the Ministry of the Interior.

Official site: <https://sede-org.dgt.gob.es/es/permisos-de-conducir/obtencion-y-gestion-de-permisos/index.html>

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

To apply for a Spanish driver's license, you must:

- Be resident in Spain
- Be at least 18 years old for a standard car license (Class B)
- Not be banned from driving by a court
- Pass a psychophysical aptitude test
- Not hold a valid license from another EU/EEA country
- Pass both the theory and practical driving tests

You can apply:

- Through a driving school, or
- Independently, either:
  - Online: <https://sede.dgt.gob.es/es/otros-tramites/presentacion-escritos-comunicaciones/>
  - In person: At any Jefatura u Oficina de Tráfico

More info: <https://www.dgt.es/nuestros-servicios/permisos-de-conducir/obtener-un-nuevo-permiso-de-conducir/requisitos-preparacion-y-presentacion-a-examen/>

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

Visit the DGT's official page:

<https://www.dgt.es/nuestros-servicios/permisos-de-conducir/obtener-un-nuevo-permiso-de-conducir/requisitos-preparacion-y-presentacion-a-examen/>

### 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 will need:

- DNI or passport
- Residence permit (if you are not an EU national)
- Psychophysical fitness report
- Proof of payment of the application fee
- Passport photo
- If applying online: a valid electronic DNI or CEREs certificate

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

You must correct the error by visiting the authority that issued the incorrect document. Bring:

- The original document
- Supporting evidence of the correct name/address (e.g., certificate from the Civil Registry, court order, etc.)

### What if I only have foreign documents?

Foreign documents are accepted, but you must meet the following conditions:

- You must have a valid residence permit in Spain.
- If you are a non-EU foreign student, you must prove that you have been residing in Spain continuously for at least six months.
- If you are from an EU/EEA country or a country with a bilateral agreement, and you already have a valid driving license, you may be eligible to exchange it for a Spanish one without taking new tests.  
More info: <https://sede-pro.dgt.gob.es/es/permisos-de-conducir/canjes-de-permisos/canjes-de-permisos-extranjeros/canjes-inscripcion-renovacion-y-sustitucion-de-permisos-de-la-ue-y-eee/index.html>
- All foreign public documents must be:
  - Legalized or apostilled

- Accompanied by a sworn translation into Spanish  
Source: <https://www.exteriores.gob.es/es/ServiciosAlCiudadano/Paginas/Legalizacion-y-apostilla.aspx>

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

If your documents are rejected, you can:

- Request assistance from the DGT in person at a local traffic office
- Or call their official helpline: 060

More info: <https://www.dgt.es/nuestros-servicios/permisos-de-conducir/permisos-extranjeros-y-de-fuerzas-y-cuerpos-de-seguridad/conducir-con-un-permiso-extranjero/>

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

Yes. To obtain a Spanish driver's license, you must be a legal resident of Spain. This means holding a valid residence permit or being registered as a resident in the Central Register of Foreign Nationals (for EU citizens).

More info: <https://www.dgt.es/nuestros-servicios/permisos-de-conducir/permisos-extranjeros-y-de-fuerzas-y-cuerpos-de-seguridad/conducir-con-un-permiso-extranjero/>

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

Being a resident in Spain means you are legally authorized to live in the country, either as an EU citizen or a non-EU national.

- EU Citizens: Must register in the Central Register of Foreign Nationals and obtain a certificate of registration (Certificado de Registro de Ciudadano de la Unión). Info: <https://www.inclusion.gob.es/web/migraciones/ciudadano-de-la-union-europea>
- Non-EU Citizens: Must obtain a residence permit (Tarjeta de Identidad de Extranjero - TIE). Info: <https://www.inclusion.gob.es/web/migraciones/vivir-en-espana/no-tiene-autorizacion>

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

If you do not have legal residency in Spain, you cannot apply for a Spanish driver's license. You may:

- Use a valid foreign license if you are in Spain temporarily and your country has a reciprocal agreement with Spain.

- Begin the process of applying for residency through the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration: <https://www.inclusion.gob.es/en/web/migraciones/vivir-en-espana>

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

Yes, a postal address is required for notification purposes when applying for a driver's license in Spain. However, there are two options available:

- You can register for electronic notifications through the Dirección Electrónica Vial (DEV), which allows you to receive official communications from the DGT online. More info: <https://sede.dgt.gob.es/es/multas/direccion-electronica-vial/>
- If you do not have a fixed address, you may be able to register using an "empadronamiento sin domicilio fijo" (registration without a fixed address) through your local municipality. This allows individuals in vulnerable situations to access public services.

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

The following documentation must accompany your application to take the driving tests and, if you pass, obtain your license:

1. Official application (*Abre en nueva ventana*) form here for the fitness tests, to apply to take the tests. By signing this form, applicants also declare that they have not been disqualified from driving by court order, are not suspended or under an administrative ban, and do not hold a licence of the same category issued in another State.
2. A report of mental and physical fitness issued by an authorised driving test centre (*Abre en nueva ventana*) (*Centro de Reconocimiento de Conductores*) is required. Remember: this certificate is valid for 90 days.
3. Proof of payment, obtained in advance, is required, showing the applicable fee. Or bring a credit card if you are going to pay at our offices.

When attending the practical test, you must bring:

1. A signature-positioning template (talón-foto) with current original colour photograph, size 32 x 26 mm, on a plain background, taken from the front, with the head uncovered and no dark glasses or clothing which might make it difficult or impossible to identify you.
2. The driving school with which you register to take the practical test will give you the photo template which you must sign and stick over the photograph. This will only be necessary if this is the first time you are applying for a given driving licence.

Please note: If you keep your head covered for religious reasons, photographs with a veil are allowed, but the oval of your face must be fully visible uncovered from the hairline to the chin, so that it is not difficult or impossible to identify you.

You can apply:

- **Online** for the theory test: <https://sede.dgt.gob.es/es/permisos-de-conducir/obtencion-y-gestion-de-permisos/solicitud-de-prueba-de-aptitud-de-examen/>
- **In person** at a DGT office for practical tests and final issuance.

Note: While the theory test application can be submitted online, the tests themselves must be taken in person.

Source: <https://sede.dgt.gob.es/es/permisos-de-conducir/obtencion-y-gestion-de-permisos/solicitud-de-prueba-de-aptitud-de-examen/>

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

Yes, application fees apply (as of May 2025):

- €94.05 for most standard licenses (Rate 2.1)
- €28.87 for motorcycle upgrades or license recovery (Rate 2.3)
- €44.58 for special vehicle licenses (Rate 2.2)

Each fee covers two exam attempts. If both are failed, a new application and fee are required.

There is currently no publicly available waiver for individuals who cannot afford the fee. You may inquire directly with the DGT or local social services to explore any exceptional support options.

More info:

- <https://www.dgt.es/nuestros-servicios/permisos-de-conducir/obtener-un-nuevo-permiso-de-conducir/requisitos-preparacion-y-presentacion-a-examen/>
- <https://sede.dgt.gob.es/es/otros-tramites/compra-y-actualizacion-de-tasas/>

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

The minimum age depends on the type of license:

- 15 years old: AM license (ciclomotores up to 50cc)
- 16 years old: A1 license (motorcycles up to 125cc), LVA (agricultural vehicles), LCM (vehicles for people with reduced mobility)
- 18 years old: B license (cars), A2 (larger motorcycles)
- 21 years old: C, D, and E licenses (buses, cargo vehicles, and trailers)

More info: <https://www.dgt.es/nuestros-servicios/permisos-de-conducir/clases-de-permisos-de-conducir/>

#### 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)?

Parental or guardian presence is not required to apply for a driver's license if you meet the minimum age requirement for the license class. However, some documents (e.g., residence registration or medical certificates) may require a guardian's involvement if you are under 18.

Source: [https://administracion.gob.es/pag\\_Home/en/Tu-espacio-europeo/derechos-obligaciones/ciudadanos/vehiculos/permiso-conduccion/obtencion.html](https://administracion.gob.es/pag_Home/en/Tu-espacio-europeo/derechos-obligaciones/ciudadanos/vehiculos/permiso-conduccion/obtencion.html)

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

This depends on the type of driving license and vehicle that one is applying for. A broad overview of the various categories would indicate that one must be:

- 15 years and above for lightweight motorcycles;
- 18 years and above for cars and heavy duty motorcycles/quadracycles; and
- 21 years and above for buses and cargo vehicles.

Please see link below for age requirements based on specific category of vehicles.

Source: <https://www.dgt.es/nuestros-servicios/permisos-de-conducir/clases-de-permisos-de-conducir/>

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

There are no specific provisions published by the DGT for foster youth. However, legal representatives (such as social workers or guardians) may assist with the application process.

#### Are there any special provisions for homeless youth?

There are no special provisions for homeless youth. However, individuals without a fixed address may register using an "empadronamiento sin domicilio fijo" through their local municipality and can receive notifications via the Dirección Electrónica Vial (DEV).

#### Will I have to take a test?

Yes. You must pass:

- A theory test
- A practical driving test

You can prepare using free online practice exams provided by the DGT.  
More info: <https://www.dgt.es/nuestros-servicios/permisos-de-conducir/obtener-un-nuevo-permiso-de-conducir/requisitos-preparacion-y-presentacion-a-examen/>

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

Yes. You must schedule an appointment to take both the theory and practical tests. This can be done online or through a driving school.

Source: <https://www.dgt.es/nuestros-servicios/permisos-de-conducir/obtener-un-nuevo-permiso-de-conducir/requisitos-preparacion-y-presentacion-a-examen/>

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

You must attend the tests in person at a DGT-authorized testing center. If transportation is a barrier, you may seek assistance from your driving school or local social services.

You can find a list of DGT-authorized driving test centers and autoescuelas (driving schools) in Spain at the following official websites:

- Authorized Driving Schools (Autoescuelas):  
<https://www.dgt.es/conoce-la-dgt/con-quien-trabajamos/autoescuelas/>
- Medical Recognition Centers (Centros de Reconocimiento de Conductores) – required for the psychophysical fitness report:  
<https://www.dgt.es/es/seguridad-vial/centros-colaboradores/centros-de-reconocimiento-de-conductores/>

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

Practices can only be done with a qualified school teacher.

Yes. You can only practice driving:

- With a certified driving school instructor
- On private property or designated training areas

Practicing in public spaces without a valid learner's permit and supervision is not allowed.

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## Birth Certificate

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

Certificado de nacimiento (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?

This can be done online through the Ministry of Justice at:  
<https://sede.mjusticia.gob.es/es/tramites/certificado-nacimiento>

You will need to identify yourself using the [CL@VE system or an electronic certificate](#) (such as the electronic DNI or one issued by the FNMT).

If you do not have an electronic certificate, you can manually enter your personal data to submit the request.

### How do I get a copy of my birth certificate?

Currently, you are only able to request your birth certificate online.

You can request from the Ministry of Justice website. An electronic ID is usually required, however, it is not necessary:  
[https://sede.mjusticia.gob.es/sereci/initDatosGenerales?idMateria=NAC&idtramite=102&lang=es\\_es&idpagina=1215197884559](https://sede.mjusticia.gob.es/sereci/initDatosGenerales?idMateria=NAC&idtramite=102&lang=es_es&idpagina=1215197884559)

Previously, you could obtain in person. However, due to COVID restrictions, this is not currently possible. As and when restrictions are lifted, you can request the certificate in person from the local registry office (*Oficina Registro Civil*).

This website helps you identify your local office -  
[https://www.mjusticia.gob.es/BUSCADIR/ServletControlador?apartado=buscadorGeneral&tipo=RC&lang=es\\_es](https://www.mjusticia.gob.es/BUSCADIR/ServletControlador?apartado=buscadorGeneral&tipo=RC&lang=es_es)

### Can I order my birth certificate online?

Yes, you can order your birth certificate [online](#) through the electronic headquarters of the Ministry of Justice ([mjusticia.gob.es](https://sede.mjusticia.gob.es)) but it is necessary to identify yourself using one of the methods provided in CL@VE. Therefore, you must be registered in the [CL@VE system or an electronic certificate](#) (such as those that can be obtained from the FNMT, the electronic DNI or another issued by a recognised authority).

If you need to apostille or legalize a Civil Registry certificate for use outside of Spain, we inform you that the certificates issued online are not valid and you must request them in their traditional format on paper with a handwritten signature. This does not apply to electronic registration certificates made at the Madrid General Office from September 27, 2021 and at the Barcelona General Office from November 29.

<https://sede.mjusticia.gob.es/es/tramites/certificado-nacimiento>

### What documents will I need to get my birth certificate?

To request a birth certificate in Spain, you must complete the online form available through the Ministry of Justice at:

[https://sede.mjusticia.gob.es/sereci/initDatosGenerales?idMateria=NAC&idtramite=102&lang=es\\_es&idpagina=1215197884559](https://sede.mjusticia.gob.es/sereci/initDatosGenerales?idMateria=NAC&idtramite=102&lang=es_es&idpagina=1215197884559)

To complete the request, you will need to provide one of the following forms of identification:

- Spanish National Identity Card (DNI)
- European Union Identity Card (DNI Europeo)
- Passport
- Spanish Foreigner Identification Number (NIE)

If you are submitting the request online, you may be required to authenticate your identity using the CL@VE system or an electronic certificate (such as the electronic DNI or a certificate issued by the FNMT). If you do not have electronic credentials, you can manually enter your personal data to complete the request.

For more details, you can consult the official FAQ document provided by the Ministry of Justice:

[https://sede.mjusticia.gob.es/es/TramitesSede/Documents/20210901\\_FAQ%20SERECI%20v1.3.pdf](https://sede.mjusticia.gob.es/es/TramitesSede/Documents/20210901_FAQ%20SERECI%20v1.3.pdf)

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

There is a contact form if any questions/issues arise (Ministry of Justice - Centro de Atención al Ciudadano) - <https://sede.mjusticia.gob.es/es/contacto>

In addition to this, citizens who wish to apply for their National Identity Document for the first time or renew it must go to a DNI Documentation Unit, after having requested an appointment by calling 060 or online at <https://www.citapreviadnie.es>.



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

To request a copy of your birth certificate in Spain by yourself, you must generally be at least 18 years old or an emancipated minor. The following considerations apply:

- For Spanish nationals, the age of majority is 18 years.
- For foreign nationals, the age of majority may vary between 18 and 21 years depending on the country of origin. In such cases, you may be required to provide proof of majority age through a certificate issued by your embassy or consulate.
- Emancipated minors may also request their birth certificate, but they must provide documentation proving their emancipation:
  - Spanish citizens can present a literal certificate from the Civil Registry.
  - Foreign nationals must provide a certificate from their embassy or consulate confirming their emancipation status.

For more information and to submit a request, visit the Ministry of Justice's official site:  
<https://sede.mjusticia.gob.es/en/tramites/certificado-nacimiento>

### 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)?

According to the Ministry of Justice, birth certificates in Spain can only be requested by individuals who are at least 18 years old or legally emancipated minors. If you are underage and not emancipated, you will not be able to request your birth certificate by yourself.

If you do not have a parent or guardian who can assist you, you should contact the Ministry of Justice or your local Civil Registry Office to explain your situation and request guidance. You may be advised to involve a legal representative, social worker, or child protection authority who can act on your behalf.

You can contact the Ministry of Justice through their official contact form here:  
<https://sede.mjusticia.gob.es/es/contacto>

For more information on requesting a birth certificate, visit:  
<https://sede.mjusticia.gob.es/en/tramites/certificado-nacimiento>

### What is the cost to get a birth certificate?

There is no fee to request a birth certificate in Spain. Spanish citizens and residents can obtain a copy of their birth certificate free of charge through the Ministry of Justice's online platform.

You can access the service here:  
<https://sede.mjusticia.gob.es/es/tramites/certificado-nacimiento>

If you use an electronic certificate (such as the electronic DNI or one issued by the FNMT) or the CL@VE system, you can complete the request entirely online.

Foreign nationals can also request a birth certificate for free, but they must do so through the Ministry of Justice and may need to provide additional documentation depending on their situation.

### Is there a waiver if I cannot afford the fee?

There is no fee to request a birth certificate in Spain, so a waiver is not necessary. The Ministry of Justice issues birth certificates free of charge, whether requested online or in person. You can submit your request through the Ministry's official portal at:  
<https://sede.mjusticia.gob.es/es/tramites/certificado-nacimiento>

If you use an electronic certificate (such as the electronic DNI or one issued by the FNMT) or the CL@VE system, you can complete the request entirely online. If you do not have electronic credentials, you can still submit your request by manually entering your personal information.

### 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)?

There are no specific laws published by the Ministry of Justice that outline special provisions for children in foster care to obtain a birth certificate.

However, individuals in this situation can contact the Ministry of Justice for assistance. The Ministry provides a citizen service telephone line at 902 007 214 or 91 837 22 95. You can also submit a request for help using their online contact form:  
<https://sede.mjusticia.gob.es/es/contacto>

In the absence of a parent or guardian, a legal representative, such as a social worker or court-appointed guardian, may be able to assist with the application process.

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

According to the law, births must be registered in the Registry of the place where they occur. If this place is unknown, the registration of the birth shall be made in the Registry corresponding to the place where the abandoned child was located so if the homeless person does not have an ID card, with that data, at least he/she can book an appointment at the corresponding office and get it.

If you do not have identification documents, you may still be able to book an appointment at the appropriate Civil Registry office using available personal data. For more information, visit: <https://sede.mjusticia.gob.es/es/tramites/certificado-nacimiento>

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

If you were born outside of Spain, you can still request your Spanish birth certificate through the following options:

1. If your birth is registered in a Spanish Civil Registry (Registro Civil) in Spain:
  - You can request your certificate online through the Ministry of Justice: <https://sede.mjusticia.gob.es/es/tramites/certificado-nacimiento>
  - If you have a digital certificate or are registered in the CL@VE system, you can download the certificate directly.
  - If you do not have a digital certificate, you can request the certificate online without one by providing your personal details and a mailing address for delivery.
2. If your birth is registered in a Spanish Consular Civil Registry (Registro Civil Consular):
  - You can request the certificate online through the Ministry of Justice using the same link above.
  - The certificate will be issued by the Central Civil Registry in Spain and sent to your address.
  - Alternatively, you can request the certificate directly from the Spanish consulate where your birth was registered. This can be done by email, post, or in person, depending on the consulate's procedures.
3. To register with a Spanish consulate abroad:
  - You must complete and mail the Consular Registration Form to your local consulate.
  - Form: <http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Portal/es/ServiciosAlCiudadano/SiEstasEnElExtranjero/Documents/2011INSCRIPCIONRESIDENTE.pdf>
4. For more information and consulate-specific procedures:
  - Visit the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website or the website of your local Spanish consulate.  
Example: <https://www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/sydney/es/Comunicacion/Noticias/Paginas/Si-estoy-en-el-extranjero.-%C2%BFc%C3%B3mo-puedo-solicitar-un-certificado-de-nacimiento.aspx>

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

Yes, you can request your birth certificate online without needing to visit a registry office in person. This can be done through the Ministry of Justice's official website: <https://sede.mjusticia.gob.es/es/tramites/certificado-nacimiento>

You will need to identify yourself using the CL@VE system or an electronic certificate (such as the electronic DNI or one issued by the FNMT). If you do not have electronic credentials, you can still complete the request by manually entering your personal information. The certificate will be sent to your chosen address or made available for download, depending on the type of request.

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

You can find complete information about how to request a birth certificate in Spain on the Ministry of Justice's official website: <https://sede.mjusticia.gob.es/es/tramites/certificado-nacimiento>

This page includes details on how to apply online, what documents are needed, how to authenticate your identity, and how to request certificates for use abroad.

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## Making Changes to Government ID Documents

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

To change your name in Spain, the process must begin with the Civil Registry (Registro Civil). The key document to initiate the name change is your literal birth certificate (certificación literal de nacimiento), which must be obtained from the Civil Registry where your birth was registered.

You will also need to provide:

- Documentary evidence supporting the reason for the name change (e.g., proof of habitual use of the new name).
- Baptismal certificates, if applicable.
- A list of witnesses, if relevant.
- Certificates from the Royal Academies of official Spanish languages, if you are requesting a name change to its onomastic equivalent.

Once the name change is approved and registered in the Civil Registry, you can proceed to update your National Identity Document (DNI). The steps are:

1. Request an appointment at the Civil Registry to submit your name change application.
2. Attend the appointment with your original DNI and the official resolution or certificate confirming the name change.
3. Submit the application and pay the applicable fee.
4. Wait to receive your updated DNI with the new name.

More information is available from the Ministry of Justice:  
<https://www.mjusticia.gob.es/en/ciudadania/tramites/cambio-nombre-apellidos>

### How do I change my name on my birth certificate?

To change your name on your birth certificate in Spain, you must request an appointment at the Civil Registry (Registro Civil) where your birth is registered. You will need to submit a formal application along with supporting documentation, such as your literal birth certificate and evidence justifying the name change (e.g., proof of habitual use, baptismal certificate, or witness statements).

Once the change is approved and registered, the Civil Registry will issue an updated birth certificate.

More information: <https://www.mjusticia.gob.es/es/ciudadania/tramites/cambio-nombre-apellidos>

### How do I change my name on my National ID?

To change your name on your DNI (Documento Nacional de Identidad), follow these steps:

- Request an appointment at your local Civil Registry to process the name change.
- Once the change is approved, request an appointment at a DNI issuance office.
- Attend the appointment with your current DNI and the official document proving the name change (such as a court resolution or updated birth certificate).
- Complete the procedure and pay the applicable fee.
- You will receive a new DNI with your updated name.  
Appointment booking: <https://www.citapreviadnie.es>

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

If your name has changed, you can request a duplicate of your driver's license from the Dirección General de Tráfico (DGT). This is allowed as long as your license is still valid.

- You must provide documentation proving the name change (e.g., updated DNI or court resolution).
- The DGT will verify the information and issue a new license with the updated name.
- The new license will be sent to the address you provide, and there is no additional cost for the duplicate due to a change in personal data.  
More information: <https://www.dgt.es/nuestros-servicios/permisos-de-conducir/hacaducado-o-necesitas-una-copia-de-tu-permiso/duplicado-por-deterioro-perdida-robo-o-cambio-de-datos>

### At what age can I change my name by myself?

In Spain, you can apply to change your name by yourself starting at the age of **16**. If you are under 16, a **legal representative** (such as a parent, guardian, or state-appointed representative) must submit the application on your behalf.

More information is available from the Ministry of Justice:  
<https://www.mjusticia.gob.es/es/ciudadania/tramites/cambio-nombre-apellidos>

### 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 **16** years or older, or an **emancipated minor**, you can apply to change your name independently. If you are under 16 and do not have a parent or guardian, the **state or child protection authority** responsible for your care may act as your legal representative and provide the necessary documentation to support your application.

More information is available at:

<https://www.mjusticia.gob.es/es/ciudadania/tramites/cambio-nombre-apellidos>

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

To change your gender marker in Spain, you must begin by initiating the administrative procedure known as the "Rectificación Registral del Sexo" through the Civil Registry (Registro Civil). This is the foundational step and must be completed before updating any other identity documents.

Once your application is submitted, the Civil Registry will begin processing the request. The procedure typically takes between three and six months, depending on the registry office.

After the change is approved, you must go in person to a DNI issuance office to update your National Identity Document. A new ID card with the updated gender marker will be issued.

More information: <https://www.mjusticia.gob.es/es/ciudadania/tramite?k=solicitud-rectificacion-registral-sexo>

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

You must request the "Rectificación Registral del Sexo" at the Civil Registry. This administrative procedure allows you to update the gender marker on your birth certificate.

All the information available here:

<https://www.mjusticia.gob.es/es/ciudadania/tramite?k=solicitud-rectificacion-registral-sexo>

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

Once your gender marker change has been approved by the Civil Registry, you must go in person to a DNI issuance office to update your National Identity Document. You will need to bring your current DNI and the official resolution or updated birth certificate confirming the gender change. A new DNI with the updated gender marker will be issued at that time.

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

To update your gender marker on your driver's license, you must notify the Dirección General de Tráfico (DGT). Once your information is updated in their system, a duplicate license will be issued reflecting the change.

Your license must be valid at the time of the request. If it is expired, you will need to renew it instead of requesting a duplicate.

More information: <https://www.dgt.es/nuestros-servicios/permisos-de-conducir/ha-caducado-o-necesitas-una-copia-de-tu-permiso/duplicado-por-deterioro-perdida-robo-o-cambio-de-datos>

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

In Spain, individuals over the age of 12 can request a change to their gender marker, but the procedure and requirements vary depending on age:

- Individuals aged **16 and older** may apply independently at the Civil Registry.
- Individuals aged **14 to 15** may apply with the assistance of their legal representatives. If there is disagreement between the minor and their representatives, or between the representatives themselves, a legal guardian will be appointed by the court.
- Individuals aged **12 to 13** may apply only with **prior judicial authorization**.
- Individuals with disabilities may also apply for the change with appropriate support measures.

More information is available from the Ministry of Justice:

<https://www.mjusticia.gob.es/es/ciudadania/tramites/rectificacion-registral-sexo>.

### 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 under 16 and do not have a parent or guardian to assist you, the state or child protection authority responsible for your care may act as your legal representative. In such cases, the Civil Registry may require documentation confirming the legal status of the representative. If you are between 12 and 13 years old, you will also need to obtain prior judicial authorization to proceed with the gender marker change.

You can contact the Ministry of Justice for guidance or support using their citizen service form: <https://sede.mjusticia.gob.es/es/contacto>

## Disclaimer

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