

I Am Here: obtaining your identification and vital documents

Cambodia

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National Identification Cards

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

In Cambodia, the official form of legal identification is the Khmer National Identity Card, issued by the General Department of Identification under the Ministry of Interior.

Who Can Get a National ID Card?

- Cambodian citizens aged 15 and older are eligible to apply for a Khmer National Identity Card.
- The ID is required for voting, accessing public services, and other legal and administrative purposes.

Where to Apply:

- At your local commune (sangkat) office, or
- At a provincial identification office under the General Department of Identification.

Required Documents:

For first-time applicants:

1. Birth certificate
2. Family book or residence book
3. Two recent passport-sized photographs
4. Completed application form

If the applicant is under 18, a parent or legal guardian may need to be present or provide supporting documentation.

Official Sources:

- Ministry of Interior – General Department of Identification:
<https://www.interior.gov.kh/en/news/KuA0nIrCfnoJ>
- Department of Khmer Nationality Identity Card

What is the process for getting a National ID card?

Citizens age 15 or over can complete the form to apply for a national identification card (Khmer Identity Card) at a commune police station, a municipal or district police inspectorates of their permanent residence, or at the GDI (General Department of Immigration).

For questions, citizens can call the hotline at 1271 or 017 898 915.

No payment is required to apply for an ID card.

Source: <https://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/id-card-renewal-campaign-continues#:~:text=Citizens%20can%20complete%20the%20form,working%20hours%2C%20Monday%20to%20Friday.>

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

Resources and guidance are included at the following:

- <https://news.gdi.gov.kh/>
- <https://news.gdi.gov.kh/posts/2072>
- This website has contact information for those with questions relating to obtaining a Cambodian national ID card, residence book, or family book:
news.gdi.gov.kh

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

To obtain a Khmer National Identity Card in Cambodia, you must provide specific documents as outlined in Sub-Decree No. 60 on Cambodian Nationality Identity Cards (2007).

Required Documents for Cambodian Citizens:

1. Birth certificate (copy)
2. Family book (K4) that shows Cambodian nationality through marriage or lineage
3. Court judgment or other official document confirming that the applicant was born to a Cambodian father or mother

For Naturalized Citizens:

- A royal decree certifying Cambodian naturalization is required

These documents are necessary to prove Cambodian nationality and eligibility for a national ID card.

Additional information can be found at:

- Sub-Decree No. 60 (2007) on Cambodian Nationality Identity Cards:
<https://huskyandpartners.com/images/Law%20Library/Citizenship%20and%20Immigr>

[ation/20190607-Sub-Decree%20on%20Cambodian%20Nationality%20Identity%20Cards_2007_En.pdf.pdf](#)

- General Department of Identification (Ministry of Interior):
<https://news.gdi.gov.kh>
- Additional guidance on ID and family book applications:
<https://www.b2b-cambodia.com/news/how-to-apply-for-cambodian-family-residence-books-id-cards>

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

If your documents in Cambodia do not reflect your correct name, address, or other civil registration data, you can request a correction through your local commune or sangkat office.

According to Ministry of Interior Notice No. 035, which implements Sub-Decree No. 134 on the correction and cancellation of civil registration data:

- An applicant (or the parents of a minor) may submit a correction request to the civil registration official at the commune or sangkat where the applicant currently resides.
- This applies to corrections of:
 - Name
 - Date and place of birth
 - Sex
 - Parents' names
 - Address

Where to Go:

- Commune/Sangkat Office (where you currently live)

Legal Reference:

- Ministry of Interior – Laws and Legal Documents:
https://www.interior.gov.kh/en/law_and_regulation

What if I only have foreign documents?

Foreign nationals who want to apply for a Cambodian ID card will first need to be naturalized with Cambodian citizenship. Foreign nationals who become naturalized with Cambodian citizenship need to bring the royal decree certifying their naturalization when they apply for an ID card.

Foreign nationals can apply for Cambodian citizenship by naturalization at the local civil registration office (*sangkat*).

Applicants must:

1. Be a lawful resident in Cambodia with a residence card when applying for naturalization;
2. Have lived in Cambodia continuously for 7 years from the date of obtaining a residence card and have documentation showing the continual residence;
3. A document issued by the chief of the commune (Khum) or district (Sangkat) of the applicant's residence stating the applicant has a record of good behavior and moral conduct;
4. A letter of certification of past criminal records stating he/she has not been previously convicted of any criminal offense; and
5. Be able to speak Khmer, know Khmer scripts, have some knowledge of Khmer history, and pass an examination testing this knowledge.

Alternatively, if you marry a Cambodian citizen, you can apply for Cambodian citizenship after three years of living together and the marriage is properly registered.

Resources for additional information:

- <https://www.b2b-cambodia.com/news/how-to-apply-for-cambodian-family-residence-books-id-cards/#~:text=Cambodian%20ID%20Card,stations%20in%20their%20respective%20Sangkats>
- <https://ceoworld.biz/2023/06/02/how-to-become-a-cambodian-resident/>
- <https://ips-cambodia.com/how-to-get-cambodian-citizenship/#~:text=If%20you%20have%20followed%20all,be%20fluent%20in%20Cambodian%20history>
- <https://www.b2b-cambodia.com/news/how-to-apply-for-cambodian-family-residence-books-id-cards/#~:text=Cambodian%20ID%20Card,stations%20in%20their%20respective%20Sangkats>

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

You can ask about how to get the necessary documents at any of the locations where you can apply for a national identity card: a commune police station, a municipal or district police inspectorates, or the GDI (General Department of Immigration).

You can also call the hotline to ask questions about what documents are needed or need to be fixed: 1271 or 017 898 915.

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

Yes, in Cambodia, you must be a resident and citizen of the country to obtain a Khmer National Identity Card.

According to the General Department of Identification under the Ministry of Interior, the ID card is issued to Cambodian citizens aged 15 and older who reside in the country. Applicants must apply at their local commune (*sangkat*) office or a provincial identification office, and must present documentation proving Cambodian nationality and residence.

You can view the official notice from the Ministry of Interior here:
<https://www.interior.gov.kh/en/news/KuA0nIrCfnoJ>

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

For Cambodian citizens living in Cambodia, you can prove residence (if needed) through documentation showing your residence (such as a bill).

For tax purposes, a person is a Cambodian resident if they are domiciled in, have a principal place of abode, or have been in Cambodia for more than 182 days during the tax year. If a person has stayed in Cambodia for less than 182 days in a tax year, they are a non-resident.

Sources:

https://www.mfaic.gov.kh/files/uploads/PDFDoingBusinessForCambodia/7_General_Tax_Information.pdf

<https://cambodia.acclime.com/guides/personal-income-tax/#:~:text=Who%20is%20considered%20as%20a%20tax%20resident%20in%20Cambodia%3F,days%20during%20the%20tax%20year.>

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

There is currently no detailed online guide available on the official Ministry of Interior of Cambodia website regarding the application process for a permanent residence card. However, based on available legal and immigration practices in Cambodia:

- Cambodian citizens are automatically considered residents and do not need to apply for residency.
- Foreign nationals who wish to become permanent residents must submit a formal request to the Minister of the Interior.
- Required documents typically include:
 - A valid passport
 - A valid visa (usually an “E” class visa)
 - Additional documentation may be required depending on the applicant’s purpose of stay (e.g., employment, investment, family ties)

Because this process is not standardized online, it is recommended to:

- Visit the Ministry of Interior in person

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

In Cambodia, there are no explicit legal requirements stating that a mailing address is necessary to obtain a national ID. However, proof of residence is typically part of the documentation required during the application process.

For individuals experiencing homelessness, the Cambodian government has implemented the [Identification of Poor Households Programme \(IDPoor\)](#), which provides an “Equity Card” (commonly referred to as an “IDPoor card”). This card is not a national ID but is used to identify individuals and families in poverty so they can access social services, including healthcare and education.

The [Ministry of Planning](#) oversees the IDPoor program, and it operates independently of the national ID system managed by the [General Department of Identification](#). While the IDPoor card does not replace a national ID, it may serve as a form of recognized identification for accessing certain services.

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

There is currently no online application option for obtaining a Cambodian national ID card (Khmer Identity Card). The application must be completed in person at one of the following locations:

1. A commune police station near your place of residence
2. The municipal or district police inspectorate
3. The [General Department of Identification \(GDI\)](#) under the Ministry of Interior

These agencies are responsible for processing and issuing national ID cards. The GDI is the central authority overseeing the identification system, while local police offices handle the intake and verification of applications.

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

There is currently no application fee for obtaining a Cambodian national ID card. This is in line with the provisions of the [Law on Civil Registration, Vital Statistics, and Identity \(CRVSID\)](#), which aims to ensure universal access to legal identity without financial barriers.

Historically, a fee of approximately USD 2.50 was charged for ID card issuance, but this has been waived under the new legal framework to promote inclusivity and accessibility.

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

Any Cambodian citizen who is age 15 or older can apply for a national ID card independently.

Additional information can be found at:

2007 Sub-Decree on Cambodian Nationality Identity Cards:
https://huskyandpartners.com/images/Law%20Library/Citizenship%20and%20Immigration/20190607-Sub-Decree%20on%20Cambodian%20Nationality%20Identity%20Cards_2007_En.pdf.pdf

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)?

Cambodian citizens age 15 or over can apply for a national identification card. No parent or guardian is needed.

Additional information can be found at:
https://huskyandpartners.com/images/Law%20Library/Citizenship%20and%20Immigration/20190607-Sub-Decree%20on%20Cambodian%20Nationality%20Identity%20Cards_2007_En.pdf.pdf

<https://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/id-card-renewal-campaign-continues#:~:text=Citizens%20can%20complete%20the%20form,working%20hours%2C%20Monday%20to%20Friday.>

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

Cambodian citizens age 15 or over can apply for a national identification card. No parent or guardian is needed.

Additional information can be found at:
https://huskyandpartners.com/images/Law%20Library/Citizenship%20and%20Immigration/20190607-Sub-Decree%20on%20Cambodian%20Nationality%20Identity%20Cards_2007_En.pdf.pdf

<https://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/id-card-renewal-campaign-continues#:~:text=Citizens%20can%20complete%20the%20form,working%20hours%2C%20Monday%20to%20Friday.>

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

There are no publicly available special provisions specifically outlined for foster youth or children in government custody in Cambodia's national ID application process. However, Cambodia has a broader child protection framework that may indirectly support such children in accessing identification:

- [The National Policy on Child Protection System 2019–2029](#) emphasizes the government's commitment to safeguarding vulnerable children, including those without parental care. While it does not explicitly mention ID issuance, it supports legal identity as part of child protection.

- [The Child Protection Unit \(CPU\)](#), operating under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Interior, provides legal and aftercare support to child victims, which may include assistance with documentation and identity verification in certain cases.
- [UNICEF Cambodia](#) also works with the government to strengthen systems that protect children from harm, including efforts to ensure legal identity and access to services.

Are there any special provisions for homeless youth?

There are no formal special provisions currently outlined in Cambodian law or policy specifically for homeless youth applying for a national ID. Homeless youth must still follow the standard application process, which includes obtaining a birth certificate through the local civil registration office (sangkat).

However, Cambodia's broader social protection framework does include programs aimed at supporting vulnerable populations, including homeless individuals and youth. These include:

- The [National Social Protection Policy Framework](#), which outlines emergency response and social assistance programs for vulnerable groups.
- The [IDPoor program](#), which identifies low-income and at-risk individuals for targeted support, though it does not replace the national ID.

These programs may help homeless youth indirectly by facilitating access to services or documentation, but they do not exempt them from the legal ID application process.

Will I have to take a test?

No, you will not have to take a test to apply for a national ID card in Cambodia. The application process involves submitting required documents and verifying your identity in person at a local authority, but it does not include any written, oral, or skills-based examination.

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 Cambodia, the organization responsible for issuing driver's licenses is the General Department of Public Works and Transport (GDPWT), which operates under the [Ministry of Public Works and Transport](#).

All applications for a Cambodian driver's license—whether for motorcycles, cars, or commercial vehicles—must be submitted through this department. The process typically includes:

- A written test (in Khmer)
- A practical driving test
- Submission of identification documents

As of May 2025, the links to MPWT's official website (<https://www.mpwt.gov.kh/en/home>), the Ministry of Public Works and Transport's official portal (<https://dr.mpwt.gov.kh>) and the Driver's License Services Portal(<https://dr.mpwt.gov.kh>) were not reachable. Additional information on driver's licenses is available on non-official sources for more information: <https://www.b2b-cambodia.com/articles/obtaining-or-renewing-a-cambodian-driving-license/>

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

You can apply for a driving test through the Ministry of Public Works and Transport's driving license issuance online system's website. You can also apply in person at any of the MPWT's service centers.

You can find the official information and begin the application process for a Cambodian driver's license through the following government websites:

- Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT): <https://www.mpwt.gov.kh/en/home>
- Driver's License Registration Portal (for test scheduling and application): <https://driverlicense.mpwt.gov.kh/register>

These sites provide access to services including test registration, license renewal, and general information about driving regulations in Cambodia.

If you are a foreign national applying for a driver's license, they will need to go in person to the General Department of Public Work and Transport (GDPWT) in Phnom Penh.

*As of May 2025, the links to MPWT's official website (<https://www.mpwt.gov.kh/en/home>), the Ministry of Public Works and Transport's official portal (<https://dr.mpwt.gov.kh>) and the Driver's License Services Portal(<https://dr.mpwt.gov.kh>) were not reachable. Additional

information on driver's licenses is available on non-official sources for more information: <https://www.b2b-cambodia.com/articles/obtaining-or-renewing-a-cambodian-driving-license/>*

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

You can find official information about getting a driver's license in Cambodia at the following government websites:

- **Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT)** main site: <https://www.mpwt.gov.kh/en/home>
- **Driver's License Registration Portal** (for scheduling tests and submitting applications): <https://driverlicense.mpwt.gov.kh/register>

To navigate to the relevant section:

1. Go to the MPWT homepage.
2. Select **Public Services** from the main menu.
3. Choose **Driver's License** to view detailed information about requirements, procedures, and service locations.

As of May 2025, the links to MPWT's official website (<https://www.mpwt.gov.kh/en/home>), the Ministry of Public Works and Transport's official portal (<https://dr.mpwt.gov.kh>) and the Driver's License Services Portal(<https://dr.mpwt.gov.kh>) were not reachable. Additional information on driver's licenses is available on non-official sources for more information: <https://www.b2b-cambodia.com/articles/obtaining-or-renewing-a-cambodian-driving-license/>

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 apply for a driver's license in Cambodia, you must provide the following documents, according to the [Ministry of Public Works and Transport \(MPWT\)](#):

1. National ID card (for Cambodian citizens) or passport with valid visa (for foreign nationals)
2. Medical certificate issued by a recognized clinic or hospital
3. Four passport-sized photos
4. Proof of residence (such as a residence certificate or utility bill)
5. Completed application form (available at MPWT offices or online)

Foreign nationals must apply in person at the General Department of Public Works and Transport in Phnom Penh.

For more details or to begin the application process, visit the MPWT's [driver's license portal](https://www.mpwt.gov.kh/en/home). *As of May 2025, the links to MPWT's official website (<https://www.mpwt.gov.kh/en/home>), the Ministry of Public Works and Transport's official portal (<https://dr.mpwt.gov.kh>) and the Driver's License Services Portal(<https://dr.mpwt.gov.kh>) were not reachable. Additional information on driver's licenses is available on non-official sources for more information: <https://www.b2b-cambodia.com/articles/obtaining-or-renewing-a-cambodian-driving-licence/>*

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

To correct civil registration data (including name, date and place of birth, sex, and parents' names), an applicant or the parents of a minor may submit an application to the civil registration official at the *commune* or *sangkat* where the applicant currently resides.

Source: Ministry of Interior Notice No. 035 (which implements Sub Decree 134 regarding the correction and cancellation of civil registration data). You can find official legal documents, including Notice No. 035 and Sub-Decree No. 134 regarding the correction and cancellation of civil registration data, on the Ministry of Interior's legal documents portal: https://www.interior.gov.kh/en/law_and_regulation

You will need to have the incorrect information fixed before you can apply for a driver's license.

What if I only have foreign documents?

If you only have foreign documents and want to obtain a Cambodian driver's license, the process depends on whether or not you already hold a valid driver's license from another country:

1. **If you have a valid foreign driver's license:** You can convert your foreign license into a Cambodian driver's license valid for 1 year. To do this, you must apply in person at the [General Department of Public Works and Transport \(GDPWT\)](#) in Phnom Penh.

Required documents:

- Passport and a photocopy
- Valid Cambodian visa (must be an "E" visa with at least 6 months remaining)
- Foreign driver's license and a photocopy
 - If not in English, an official translation is required (via your embassy or authorized translator)
- Residency letter from your local sangkat (your landlord can usually help obtain this)
- Four passport-sized photos (4cm x 6cm, white background)

Fee: USD 7.75

Note: A basic health check (height, weight) may be required.

If you do not have a valid foreign driver's license: You must go through the **full licensing process**, which includes both a written and a driving test.

Required documents:

- Passport and a photocopy
- Valid Cambodian visa (same requirements as above)
- Four passport-sized photos (4cm x 6cm, white background)

Fees:

- Application: USD 22.50
- Health check: USD 2.50

Process:

- Submit documents and pay fees
- Complete a health check
- Take the written exam (available in Khmer or English)
- Take the driving test
- Receive your license (valid for 10 years)

For official information on obtaining a Cambodian driver's license as a foreign national, including procedures for converting a foreign license or applying for a new one, you can visit the following government websites:

- Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT): <https://www.mpwt.gov.kh/en/home>
- Driver's License Registration Portal (for test registration and application): <https://driverlicense.mpwt.gov.kh/register>

As of May 2025, the links to MPWT's official website (<https://www.mpwt.gov.kh/en/home>), the Ministry of Public Works and Transport's official portal (<https://dr.mpwt.gov.kh>) and the Driver's License Services Portal(<https://dr.mpwt.gov.kh>) were not reachable. Additional information on driver's licenses is available on non-official sources for more information: <https://www.b2b-cambodia.com/articles/obtaining-or-renewing-a-cambodian-driving-licence/>

These sites provide up-to-date details on required documents, fees, and procedures.

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

If your documents are not accepted when applying for a Cambodian driver's license, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) suggests the following steps:

1. Ask for clarification: Inquire with the staff which specific documents are not sufficient and why they are being rejected.
2. Correct the issue: Return to the issuing authority (e.g., your embassy, local sangkat, or translation service) to correct or reissue the document.
3. Reapply: Once corrected, return to the MPWT service center to continue your application.

For assistance, you can contact the MPWT Public Service Center directly:

- Website: <https://www.mpwt.gov.kh/en/contact-us/customer-support-center>
- Hotline: 1275 (free within Cambodia)

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

No, you do not need to be a Cambodian citizen to apply for a driver's license in Cambodia. Both local citizens and foreign nationals are eligible to apply.

- Cambodian citizens can apply directly through the [Ministry of Public Works and Transport \(MPWT\)](#) or its service centers.
- Foreign nationals can:
 - Convert a valid foreign driver's license into a Cambodian license (valid for 1 year), or
 - Apply for a new license by taking the written and driving exams (valid for 10 years)

In both cases, a valid "E" class visa with at least six months remaining is required.

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

In Cambodia, residency can be understood in two main contexts: legal residency for documentation purposes and tax residency.

Legal Residency (for purposes like driver's license applications)

To prove residency in Cambodia, especially when applying for a driver's license, you typically need to provide a residency letter issued by your local sangkat (commune office). This document confirms your current address and is often obtained with the help of your landlord.

Other acceptable forms of proof may include:

- A utility bill (electricity, water, etc.) with your name and address
- A lease agreement
- A letter from your employer confirming your residence

Tax Residency

For tax purposes, a person is considered a Cambodian tax resident if they meet any of the following criteria:

- They are domiciled in Cambodia
- They have a principal place of abode in Cambodia
- They have been physically present in Cambodia for more than 182 days in a calendar year

If a person stays in Cambodia for less than 182 days in a tax year, they are considered a non-resident for tax purposes.

Sources:

- General Tax Information – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation https://www.mfaic.gov.kh/files/uploads/PDFDoingBusinessForCambodia/7_General_Tax_Information.pdf
- Acclime Cambodia – Personal Income Tax Guide <https://cambodia.acclime.com/guides/personal-income-tax/#:~:text=Who%20is%20considered%20as%20a%20tax%20resident%20in%20Cambodia%3F,days%20during%20the%20tax%20year>

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

If you do not have residency in Cambodia and wish to obtain a driver's license, your eligibility depends on your citizenship and visa status:

- Cambodian citizens are considered residents by default and can apply for a driver's license without needing additional residency documentation.
- Foreign nationals must have a valid "E" class visa (an ordinary visa) with at least six months remaining to apply for a Cambodian driver's license. This visa type is typically used for work, business, or extended stays.

If you are planning to reside in Cambodia long-term, you may apply for a permanent residence card. This process involves:

- Submitting a request to the Minister of the Interior
- Providing a valid passport and visa
- Meeting additional criteria, which may include length of stay, employment, or investment in Cambodia

While the Ministry of Interior does not currently publish a detailed online guide for this process, inquiries can be made directly through their official site: <https://www.moi.gov.kh>

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

If you are homeless and applying for a driver's license in Cambodia, there are currently no official guidelines from the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) that specifically address the situation of applicants without a fixed mailing address.

However, the Cambodian government has implemented the [IDPoor program](#), managed by the Ministry of Planning, which provides Equity Cards to individuals and families living in poverty, including those without stable housing. While this card does not replace a driver's license, it may help facilitate access to public services and documentation.

For Cambodian citizens, the standard documents required to apply for a driver's license include:

- A copy of your Khmer Nationality Identity Card
- Three passport-sized photos (4x6 cm, white background)
- A health certificate (obtained on-site)
- A certificate of driving school education
- Your previous license (if renewing)

If you do not have a fixed address, you may still be able to apply by working with your local sangkat (commune office) or a social service organization to obtain a residency letter or other supporting documentation.

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

Yes, you can begin the application process online for a Cambodian driver's license, but you will still need to complete parts of the process in person.

Application Process for a Driver's License in Cambodia:

1. Online Registration (Optional)
You can pre-register and schedule your driving test through the Ministry of Public Works and Transport's official portal:
<https://dr.mpwt.gov.kh>
2. In-Person Requirements
Whether you register online or not, you must visit a Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) service center to:
 - Submit original documents
 - Complete a health check
 - Take the written and driving tests
3. Required Documents (for new applicants):
 - National ID card (for Cambodians) or passport with valid visa (for foreigners)
 - Residency letter (for foreigners)
 - 4 passport-sized photos (4x6 cm, white background)

- Medical certificate (obtained on-site)
- Certificate of driving school education (if applicable)

As of May 2025, the links to MPWT's official website (<https://www.mpwt.gov.kh/en/home>), the Ministry of Public Works and Transport's official portal (<https://dr.mpwt.gov.kh>) and the Driver's License Services Portal(<https://dr.mpwt.gov.kh>) were not reachable. Additional information on driver's licenses is available on non-official sources for more information: <https://www.b2b-cambodia.com/articles/obtaining-or-renewing-a-cambodian-driving-license/>

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

There is an application fee for both locals and foreigners. Payment seems to be mandatory because nothing on the official website implies that the application fees can be waived.

As of May 2025, the links to MPWT's official website (<https://www.mpwt.gov.kh/en/home>), the Ministry of Public Works and Transport's official portal (<https://dr.mpwt.gov.kh>) and the Driver's License Services Portal(<https://dr.mpwt.gov.kh>) were not reachable. Additional information on driver's licenses is available on non-official sources for more information: <https://www.b2b-cambodia.com/articles/obtaining-or-renewing-a-cambodian-driving-license/> and <https://ips-cambodia.com/getting-a-cambodian-drivers-license/>

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

You must be 18 years old to apply for and obtain a driver's license.

As of May 2025, the links to MPWT's official website (<https://www.mpwt.gov.kh/en/home>), the Ministry of Public Works and Transport's official portal (<https://dr.mpwt.gov.kh>) and the Driver's License Services Portal(<https://dr.mpwt.gov.kh>) were not reachable. Additional information on driver's licenses is available on non-official sources for more information: <https://www.b2b-cambodia.com/articles/obtaining-or-renewing-a-cambodian-driving-license/> and <https://ips-cambodia.com/getting-a-cambodian-drivers-license/>

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)?

No parent or guardian is needed to apply for a driver's license.

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

You must be 18 years old to apply for and obtain a driver's license.

<https://ips-cambodia.com/getting-a-cambodian-drivers-license/>

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

No such provisions were located as of May 2025.

Are there any special provisions for homeless youth?

No such provisions were located as of May 2025.

Will I have to take a test?

Yes, there is a medical test, a written test, and a driving test.

If you are a foreign national with a valid driver's license from another country, you will only need to do the medical test (height and weight).

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

Yes. Appointments can be made in person at the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, or through their website.

If you are a foreign national, you will have to go in person to the General Department of Public Work and Transport (GDPWT) in Phnom Penh to apply for a license and make any necessary appointments.

As of May 2025, the links to MPWT's official website (<https://www.mpwt.gov.kh/en/home>), the Ministry of Public Works and Transport's official portal (<https://dr.mpwt.gov.kh>) and the Driver's License Services Portal(<https://dr.mpwt.gov.kh>) were not reachable. Additional information on driver's licenses is available on non-official sources for more information: <https://www.b2b-cambodia.com/articles/obtaining-or-renewing-a-cambodian-driving-licence/> and <https://ips-cambodia.com/getting-a-cambodian-drivers-license/>

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

If you are a Cambodian citizen, at the Ministry of Public Works and Transport.

If you are a foreign national, at the General Department of Public Work and Transport (GDPWT) in Phnom Penh.

As of May 2025, the links to MPWT's official website (<https://www.mpwt.gov.kh/en/home>), the Ministry of Public Works and Transport's official portal (<https://dr.mpwt.gov.kh>) and the Driver's License Services Portal(<https://dr.mpwt.gov.kh>) were not reachable. Additional information on driver's licenses is available on non-official sources for more information: <https://www.b2b-cambodia.com/articles/obtaining-or-renewing-a-cambodian-driving-licence/> and <https://ips-cambodia.com/getting-a-cambodian-drivers-license/>

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

Driving without a driver's license is illegal in Cambodia. If you are a Cambodian citizen who does not have a driver's license from any other country, you will need to complete driving school education.

As of May 2025, the links to MPWT's official website (<https://www.mpwt.gov.kh/en/home>), the Ministry of Public Works and Transport's official portal (<https://dr.mpwt.gov.kh>) and the Driver's License Services Portal(<https://dr.mpwt.gov.kh>) were not reachable. Additional information on driver's licenses is available on non-official sources for more information: <https://www.b2b-cambodia.com/articles/obtaining-or-renewing-a-cambodian-driving-licence/> and <https://ips-cambodia.com/getting-a-cambodian-drivers-license/>

Birth Certificate

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

In Cambodia, the official document that details a person's birth is called a **birth certificate**.

You can find official information about birth certificates on the Cambodian government's civil registration portal here:

<https://www.cambodiaip.gov.kh/en/department/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're unsure whether you have a birth certificate in Cambodia or need to obtain one, you should contact or visit the civil registration office (commune or sangkat) where you or your parents were residing at the time of your birth.

To check or request a birth certificate, follow these steps:

1. Visit the local civil registration office (commune/sangkat) where your birth was likely registered.
2. Provide identifying information such as your full name, date of birth, and parents' names.
3. If your birth was registered, they can issue a certified copy of your birth certificate.
4. If your birth was not registered, you may need to go through a **late registration process**, which may involve providing witness statements or other supporting documents.

For more information, you can refer to the Cambodian government's civil registration overview here:

<https://grd.sgs.gov.kh/home/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/06/SNAPSHOT-OF-CIVIL-REGISTRATION-AND-VITAL-STATISTICS-SYSTEMS-OF-CAMBODIA -SNAPSHOT-OF-CIVIL-REGISTRATION-AND-VITAL-STATISTICS-SYSTEMS-OF-CAMBODIA.pdf>

You can find official information about birth certificates on the Cambodian government's civil registration portal here:

<https://www.cambodiaip.gov.kh/en/department/birth-certificate/>

How do I get a copy of my birth certificate?

To get a copy of your birth certificate in Cambodia, you should go to the civil registration office at the commune or sangkat where your birth was originally registered or where you currently reside.

According to Open Development Cambodia:

- If your birth was registered, the commune/sangkat office can issue a certified copy of your birth certificate.
- If your birth was not registered, you may need to go through a late registration process, which may involve providing a birth certification letter from a hospital or village chief, your family book, and your parents' marriage certificate (if applicable).

You can find additional information at: <https://opendevelopmentcambodia.net/social-accountability/civil-status/>

Can I order my birth certificate online?

No. You must go to the local civil registry office (*sangkat*).

Source: <https://opendevelopmentcambodia.net/social-accountability/civil-status/>

What documents will I need to get my birth certificate?

To obtain a replacement birth certificate, you or your parents (if you are a minor) can submit an application to the civil registration official at your community's *commune* or *sangkat*. The local civil registration official will forward the application to the Ministry of Interior's civil registration official for consideration and approval.

If you do not have a birth certificate, you can apply for a civil registration letter that certifies your birth.

For more information, you can refer to the Cambodian government's civil registration overview here:

<https://grd.sgs.gov.kh/home/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/06/SNAPSHOT-OF-CIVIL-REGISTRATION-AND-VITAL-STATISTICS-SYSTEMS-OF-CAMBODIA -SNAPSHOT-OF-CIVIL-REGISTRATION-AND-VITAL-STATISTICS-SYSTEMS-OF-CAMBODIA.pdf>

You can find official information about birth certificates on the Cambodian government's civil registration portal here:

<https://www.cambodiaip.gov.kh/en/department/birth-certificate/>

<https://www.streetchildren.org/legal-atlas/map/cambodia/legal-identity/can-a-child-obtain-retroactive-or-replacement-birth-registration-documents>

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

You may enquire at the local civil registry office (*sangkat*) on whether you can still apply for a birth certificate with the documents you possess.

For more information, you can refer to the Cambodian government's civil registration overview here:

<https://grd.sgs.gov.kh/home/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/06/SHOT-OF-CIVIL-REGISTRATION-AND-VITAL-STATISTICS-SYSTEMS-OF-CAMBODIA -SHOT-OF-CIVIL-REGISTRATION-AND-VITAL-STATISTICS-SYSTEMS-OF-CAMBODIA.pdf>

You can find official information about birth certificates on the Cambodian government's civil registration portal here:

<https://www.cambodiaip.gov.kh/en/department/birth-certificate/>

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

Eighteen (18). For minors (below 18), your parents will have to make the application on your behalf.

For more information, you can refer to the Cambodian government's civil registration overview here:

<https://grd.sgs.gov.kh/home/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/06/SHOT-OF-CIVIL-REGISTRATION-AND-VITAL-STATISTICS-SYSTEMS-OF-CAMBODIA -SHOT-OF-CIVIL-REGISTRATION-AND-VITAL-STATISTICS-SYSTEMS-OF-CAMBODIA.pdf>

You can find official information about birth certificates on the Cambodian government's civil registration portal here:

<https://www.cambodiaip.gov.kh/en/department/birth-certificate/>

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)?

You can explain to the local civil registry office (*sangkat*) that you do not have a parent or guardian to accompany you, and enquire whether you can still get a copy of your birth certificate.

For more information, you can refer to the Cambodian government's civil registration overview here:

<https://grd.sgs.gov.kh/home/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/06/SHOT-OF-CIVIL-REGISTRATION-AND-VITAL-STATISTICS-SYSTEMS-OF-CAMBODIA -SHOT-OF-CIVIL-REGISTRATION-AND-VITAL-STATISTICS-SYSTEMS-OF-CAMBODIA.pdf>

You can find official information about birth certificates on the Cambodian government's civil registration portal here:

<https://www.cambodiaip.gov.kh/en/department/birth-certificate/>

What is the cost to get a birth certificate?

There is no fee.

Inter-Ministerial [Prakas No.14342 the Provision of Administrative Services at Sub-National Level](#), dated on 29 December 2016.

For more information, you can refer to the Cambodian government's civil registration overview here:

<https://grd.sgs.gov.kh/home/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/06/SHOT-OF-CIVIL-REGISTRATION-AND-VITAL-STATISTICS-SYSTEMS-OF-CAMBODIA -SHOT-OF-CIVIL-REGISTRATION-AND-VITAL-STATISTICS-SYSTEMS-OF-CAMBODIA.pdf>

You can find official information about birth certificates at:

<https://www.cambodiaip.gov.kh/en/department/birth-certificate/> and <https://opendevelopmentcambodia.net/profiles/access-to-public-service/civil-status/#ref-100495-3>

Is there a waiver if I cannot afford the fee?

There is no fee for a birth certificate.

Inter-Ministerial [Prakas No.14342 the Provision of Administrative Services at Sub-National Level](#), dated on 29 December 2016.

You can find official information about birth certificates at:

<https://www.cambodiaip.gov.kh/en/department/birth-certificate/> and <https://opendevelopmentcambodia.net/profiles/access-to-public-service/civil-status/#ref-100495-3>

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)?

No. But if you have documents to prove that you have been in the foster care system (children in custody of the government), you may produce this as it may be helpful in your birth certificate application at the local civil registration office (*sangkat*).

There are no specific laws or provisions in Cambodia that automatically grant birth certificates to children who have been in the foster care system or in government custody. However, if you have documents proving your time in foster care or institutional care, these may be helpful when applying for a birth certificate at your local civil registration office (*sangkat*).

According to Open Development Cambodia, birth certificates are issued at the commune/*sangkat* level, and even children born to unmarried parents are entitled to registration in the civil status book of birth:

<https://opendevelopmentcambodia.net/profiles/access-to-public-service/civil-status/>

If you are applying for a birth certificate and have been in foster care, it is recommended to bring any documentation you have—such as letters from the institution, social workers, or government agencies—as these may support your application.

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

There are no specific laws or provisions in Cambodia that automatically provide a birth certificate to individuals who are homeless. However, the law does not exclude homeless individuals from registering or obtaining a birth certificate.

According to the [Law on Civil Status, Civil Status Statistics and Identification](#), civil registration applies to all persons living in the territory of Cambodia, regardless of housing status.

Additionally, [Open Development Cambodia](#) notes that:

- Birth certificates and attestations are issued free of charge.
- Commune/sangkat offices are responsible for issuing these documents.
- A letter certifying the birth (from a hospital or village chief), family book, and parents' marriage certificate (if available) are typically required.

If you are homeless and lack some of these documents, it is still possible to apply by:

- Visiting the commune/sangkat office where you were born or currently reside.
- Presenting any available documentation or witness statements.
- Requesting assistance from local authorities or NGOs that support vulnerable populations.

Additional information is available at:

<https://opendevelopmentcambodia.net/profiles/access-to-public-service/civil-status/>

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

Cambodian birth certificate

For Cambodian citizens born abroad, the Ministry of Interior and local sangkat offices may allow late registration or registration by declaration, depending on the documentation you can provide.

Foreign birth certificate

If you intend to obtain a foreign birth certificate, you may need to obtain your birth certificate from the government agency responsible for registering births in that country. The specific process and requirements for obtaining a birth certificate will vary depending on the country in which you were born.

For more information on civil registration in Cambodia, including birth registration procedures, you can refer to:

- Open Development Cambodia's civil status page: <https://opendevelopmentcambodia.net/profiles/access-to-public-service/civil-status/>
- Detailed documentation on birth registration procedures: https://data.opendevelopmentcambodia.net/en/library_record/documentation-on-how-to-record-civil-registration-chapter-ii-birth-registration

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

No, in Cambodia, you must physically go to the local civil registry office (sangkat) to apply for or obtain a birth certificate. There is currently no online system available for requesting or retrieving birth certificates remotely.

This requirement is confirmed by Open Development Cambodia, which outlines that civil status services, including birth registration and certificate issuance, are handled in person at the commune/sangkat level.

You can read more at:

<https://opendevelopmentcambodia.net/profiles/access-to-public-service/civil-status/#return-note-100495-3>

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

Currently, there is limited information from official Cambodian governmental sites on how to obtain a birth certificate.

You can review a summary of Cambodian birth certificate instructions here:

<https://opendevelopmentcambodia.net/profiles/access-to-public-service/civil-status/#return-note-100495-3>

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?

To change your name on government-issued ID documents in Cambodia, the first document you should start with is your birth certificate. This is because the birth certificate is the foundational civil registration document from which other identity documents—such as the national ID card and passport—are derived.

- It is the primary legal record of your identity, including your name, date of birth, and parentage.
- Any official name change must first be reflected in the civil registry before it can be updated on other documents.

Process Overview:

1. Request a name change at your local civil registration office (sangkat).
2. Once the change is approved and your birth certificate is updated, you can proceed to update your:
 - National ID card through the [General Department of Identification](#)
 - Passport and other documents

The process for updating your national ID card is governed by [Sub-Decree No. 47 on Cambodian National Identification Cards](#), which outlines the format and procedures for ID issuance and updates.

How do I change my name on my birth certificate?

To change your name on your birth certificate in Cambodia, you must follow the procedures outlined by the Ministry of Interior and your local civil registration office (sangkat). The process is governed by national civil registration guidelines and may involve multiple steps.

Steps to Change Your Name on a Cambodian Birth Certificate:

1. Visit your local sangkat (commune) office
Begin the process by going to the civil registration office where your birth was originally registered or where you currently reside.
2. Submit a written request
You will need to submit a formal request explaining the reason for the name change. This may include:
 - A letter of explanation

- Supporting documents (e.g., national ID, family book, or other legal documents)
3. Provide justification and documentation
The commune office may require:
 - Proof of identity
 - Witness statements or legal justification for the name change
 - Any court or administrative decision, if applicable
 4. Approval and update
If approved, the commune office will update your birth record and issue a revised birth certificate reflecting the new name.
 5. Follow-up with other agencies
Once your birth certificate is updated, you can proceed to update your national ID card, passport, and other official documents.

Official Resources:

- Open Development Cambodia – Birth Registration Guide: https://data.opendevdevelopmentcambodia.net/en/library_record/documentation-on-how-to-record-civil-registration-chapter-ii-birth-registration
- Ministry of Interior – Civil Registration Department: <http://www.interior.gov.kh>

How do I change my name on my National ID?

To change your name on your Cambodian National ID card, you must first update your birth certificate, as it is the foundational identity document. Once your name has been legally changed and reflected on your birth certificate, you can proceed with updating your national ID.

1. Update your birth certificate
Visit your local civil registration office (sangkat) to request a name change. Once approved, obtain the updated birth certificate.
2. Visit the General Department of Identification (GDI)
Go to the GDI office or your local municipal/district police inspectorate that handles ID services.
3. Submit the following documents:
 - Updated birth certificate showing your new name
 - Your current national ID card

- A completed application form for ID update
 - Passport-sized photos (as required)
 - Any additional supporting documents requested by the office
4. Pay any applicable fees
Fees may vary depending on whether the change is part of a renewal or a correction.

As of May 2025, the official GDI website (<https://idc.gdi.gov.kh>) is currently inaccessible, you can inquire directly at your local identification office or the Ministry of Interior for the most accurate and up-to-date procedures.

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

To change your name on your Cambodian driver's license, you must first update your birth certificate and national ID card, as these are the foundational documents used to verify your identity during the license update process.

Steps to Change Your Name on a Cambodian Driver's License:

1. Update your birth certificate
Visit your local civil registration office (sangkat) to request a name change and obtain an updated birth certificate.
2. Update your national ID card
Submit the updated birth certificate to the General Department of Identification (GDI) to receive a new national ID card reflecting your new name.
3. Visit the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT)
Go to a local MPWT service center or the main office in Phnom Penh to request a name change on your driver's license.
4. Submit the following documents:
 - Updated national ID card
 - Updated birth certificate
 - Your current driver's license
 - Passport-sized photos (as required)
 - A completed application form for license update
5. Pay the applicable fee
Fees may vary depending on the type of license and whether it's a renewal or correction.

Official Resources:

- MPWT main site: <https://www.mpwt.gov.kh/en/home>
- Driver's license registration portal: <https://driverlicense.mpwt.gov.kh/register>

At what age can I change my name by myself?

In Cambodia, the minimum age at which a person can independently request a name change on key identity documents varies by document type:

- [National ID Card](#)
You can apply for and make changes to your national ID card starting at age 15, which is the minimum age for issuance.
- [Driver's License](#)
You can request a name change on your driver's license at any age after you have obtained the license. The minimum age to obtain a license depends on the vehicle class, but typically starts at age 16.
- [Birth Certificate](#)
To change your name on your birth certificate, you must be at least 18 years old, as this is considered a legal declaration under Cambodian civil law.

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

In Cambodia, if you do not have a parent or guardian and want to change your name, there are no specific legal provisions that automatically authorize minors without guardians to do so independently. However, there are a few potential pathways and considerations:

1. Legal Age Requirement
You must generally be 18 years old to request a name change on your birth certificate, as this is considered a legal declaration under Cambodian civil law. Until then, changes typically require the consent or involvement of a parent or legal guardian.
2. Guardianship Alternatives
If you are under 18 and do not have a parent or guardian, you may need to:
 - Work with a social worker, child protection officer, or institutional care provider who can act on your behalf.
 - Seek assistance from the commune/sangkat office, which may coordinate with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) or a recognized NGO to support your case.
3. Supporting Documentation
If you have documents proving your status as a child in government custody or foster care, these may help establish your identity and support your request. Commune offices may accept such documentation when evaluating your application.
4. Relevant Resources
 - [Open Development Cambodia – Civil Status](#)
 - [Law on Civil Status, Civil Status Statistics and Identification](#)

- [UNICEF Cambodia – Child Protection](#)

If you are in this situation, it is recommended to visit your local commune/sangkat office and ask for assistance or referral to a child protection officer who can help guide you through the process.

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

In Cambodia, there is currently no publicly available legal framework that explicitly allows individuals to change their gender marker on official documents such as the birth certificate, national ID card, or driver's license.

What We Know:

- The [Law on Civil Status, Civil Status Statistics and Identification](#) governs changes to personal information in civil records, but it does not specify procedures for gender marker changes.
- [Sub-Decree No. 47 on Cambodian National Identification Cards](#) outlines the format and content of national ID cards, including gender, but does not mention how or whether gender can be changed.
- The [Open Development Cambodia Identification Services page](#) lists services related to ID and civil status changes, but does not include gender marker updates.

What You Can Do:

If you are seeking to change your gender marker:

1. Start with your birth certificate, as it is the foundational document for all other IDs.
2. Visit your local sangkat (commune) office to inquire whether a gender marker change is possible under current administrative procedures.

If you are under the care of a social service agency or NGO, they may be able to assist in navigating the process or advocating on your behalf.

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

Currently, there is no publicly available legal process in Cambodia for changing the gender marker on a birth certificate. You may inquire at your local commune/sangkat office to see if any administrative options are available. The process is not outlined in the [Law on Civil Status, Civil Status Statistics and Identification](#).

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

There is no formal procedure published for changing the gender marker on a Cambodian national ID card. The [Sub-Decree No. 47 on Cambodian National Identification Cards](#) defines the format and content of ID cards but does not include provisions for gender

marker changes. You may inquire at the General Department of Identification or your local police inspectorate.

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

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport does not currently provide a public process for changing the gender marker on a driver's license. Any such change would likely require your national ID and birth certificate to reflect the updated gender first. You can visit a local MPWT office to ask if any accommodations are available. More information is available at [Open Development Cambodia – Identification Services](#).

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

There is no official age specified for changing a gender marker in Cambodia, as the process is not formally recognized in law. However, legal changes to civil status documents like birth certificates typically require the applicant to be at least 18 years old.

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 18 and do not have a parent or guardian, you may need to seek help from a social worker, child protection officer, or a recognized NGO. They may be able to assist you in navigating the administrative system or advocate on your behalf at the commune/sangkat level.

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Please note that the I Am Here Platform is in development and does not represent the final version of the work product. We will continue to update this I Am Here Platform as updates and edits are received across the globe.

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