

VEHICLES

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Driver Licenses

Where do I get a driver license?

You may get a driver license at a Texas Department of Public Safety office. The cost ranges from \$16 to \$24 for a renewal. Be sure to bring your Social Security card and one of the following forms of identification: original certified birth certificate, passport, visa or a picture document from immigration.

Do I have to take any tests to renew my driver's license?

Yes, a vision test is required and if your license has been expired for more than two years, you will need to take both the written and driving exam.

What if I am a new Texas resident?

If you have moved from another state, you will need to register your car, have it inspected, and show proof of insurance before you can apply for a Texas license. Instructions for these activities are provided in this section of your guide.

License Plates and Registration

How do I register my vehicle?

State law requires that you register your vehicle in Texas. If you buy a vehicle from a licensed Texas dealer, the dealer will file your title application for you.

In other cases, you may get an application and register at a county tax office. Bring a filled-out application and proof of automobile insurance.

How do I get license plates in person?

Fill out an application at any county tax office. Bring the automobile title, as well as proof of automobile insurance. The fee varies, depending on the type of vehicle.

I would like to renew my registration by mail. How do I do that?

Follow the instructions on your renewal notice. Send the renewal notice, registration fee, \$1 for processing and mailing and all requested information, including proof of insurance, to the address on the notice.

What should I do if my license plates are damaged or stolen?

Call one of the tax offices listed at right or send an e-mail to this address: www.mvt@tarrantcounty.com.

How do I get personalized license plates or other special plates?

Applications are available at county tax offices. There is an additional charge to the regular registration fee. Costs vary according to your order. In some cases, you must meet eligibility requirements to receive the special plates such as Purple Heart plates.

Driver License

Texas Department of Public Safety
www.txdps.state.tx.us

6413 Woodway Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76133
(817) 294-1075

3901 W. Arkansas Lane
Arlington, TX 76016
(817) 274-1818

6316 Lake Worth Blvd.
Lake Worth, TX 76135
(817) 238-9197

624 NE Loop 820
Hurst, TX 76053
(817) 299-1300

License Plates Tarrant County Tax Offices

Each office is open Monday – Friday,
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Fort Worth Downtown
100 E. Weatherford St.
Fort Worth, TX 76196
(817) 884-1100

Arlington
700 E. Abram St.
Arlington, TX 76010
(817) 548-3935

Hurst
645 Grapevine Highway
Hurst, TX 76054
(817) 581-3635

Lake Worth
6713 Telephone Road
Lake Worth, TX 76135
(817) 238-4437

Fort Worth Southeast
6551 Granbury Road
Fort Worth, TX 76133
(817) 370-4535

Mansfield
1100 E. Broad St.
Mansfield, TX 76092
(817) 473-5127

Fort Worth Polytechnic
3212 Miller Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76105
(817) 531-5635

Southlake
1400 Main St., Suite 110
Southlake, TX 76092
(817) 481-8141

Automobile Inspections

How often and where do I get an automobile inspection?

Each year, your vehicle must pass a safety inspection and a verification of the vehicle identification number. These services are available at state-approved inspection stations throughout the city.

Handicapped Designation

I am disabled and would like to get license plates with the international symbol of access. What do I need to do?

Texas law allows disabled residents to obtain one set of plates with the access symbol, as well as one or two placards. You may display the placard in any vehicle you are using in order to use special parking spaces or to receive exemption from parking meter fees.

How do I apply for handicap designation?

You may get a form from any county tax office. Your physician must complete and notarize the form. Submit the completed form and required fees to the tax office. There is no extra fee for the license plate. Placards must be renewed every four years.

Red-light Safety Cameras

What is a red-light camera?

Red-light cameras operate 24 hours a day and capture still photographs and video of vehicles that run red lights at selected intersections. For more information on red-light cameras, call Transportation and Public Works at 817-392-8056.

What is a red-light violation?

Violations occur when motorists enter intersections after signal lights turn red. Those already in intersections when lights turn red-waiting to turn, for example will not be ticketed. Citations, including license plate photos, are mailed to vehicle owners.

How can I view information about my Notice of Violation?

Visit www.violationinfo.com to view information about your Notice of Violation. You will be asked to enter your notice number and PIN number, which are found on the front of your Warning or Notice of Violation, in the upper right corner inside the red box.

Isn't the usual police enforcement sufficient for red-light violations?

Red-light cameras provide around-the-clock enforcement at high-collision intersections and reduce risks for police officers. Officers often must follow violators through red lights to stop them, endangering their lives and the lives of pedestrians and other motorists.

Other Vehicle Contacts

Traffic Tickets

Fort Worth Municipal Court
1000 Throckmorton St.
Fort Worth, TX 76102

Monday – Friday: 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Saturdays: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
(Note: The office is closed from
noon – 1 p.m.)

Parking Ticket Information

(817) 392-6700

Defensive Driving

Fort Worth Municipal Court
(817) 392-8675

Citation Information

(817) 392-6700

Emergency Traffic Accident: 911

Non-Emergency Traffic Accident

(817) 335-4222

Accident Reports

Police Records Division
350 W. Belknap St.
Fort Worth, TX 76102
(817) 392-4160

Auto Pound

1301 E. Northside Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76102
(817) 392-5950
24 hours daily, 7 days a week

Do cameras photograph all vehicles that pass through an intersection?

No. Automated traffic safety cameras photograph only vehicles that enter intersections after signals turn red. Only violations are recorded.

Do cameras take pictures of drivers?

No. Photos are taken of vehicles moving away from cameras into intersections. Running a red light is a civil violation against the owner of the vehicle. That means there is no reason to identify the driver.

What if someone else is driving my car?

Vehicle owners are responsible to pay fines even if they are not at the wheel. There are exceptions for people in the car sales or rental business, or those who can prove they sold the vehicle before the violation.

Will I receive points on my driving record for running a red light?

No. Red-light violations are civil offenses and are not reported to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

Will my auto insurance rate be affected?

No. Red-light violations are civil offenses and are not reported to insurance agencies.

What is the fine for running a red-light?

The fine is \$75, plus a \$25 late fee for vehicle owners who don't pay within 30 days of mailing.

What if I don't pay for my red light citation?

The contractor for the city's automated traffic safety program can use a collection agency, and the Tarrant County tax assessor can refuse to renew your vehicle registration.

Can I contest red-light citations?

Yes. Vehicle owners can contest fines for running red lights in an administrative hearing and appeal the results of the hearing in Fort Worth Municipal Court.

Is this a revenue generating program?

This is a safety program. Automated traffic safety systems have been shown to reduce violations for running red lights and accidents at intersections. Sometimes, there's even a spill-over effect, meaning there is also a decrease in violations and accidents at intersections not monitored electronically.

What will the city do with money collected from red-light citations?

State law requires the city to send half of the fines collected from the use of red-light cameras, minus administrative expenses, to the state comptroller for use by the regional trauma centers. The other half will be used for traffic safety programs.

Parking and Traffic Tickets

Where can I pay parking and traffic tickets?

You may pay these tickets at the Municipal Court Building across from City Hall:

1000 Throckmorton St.
Fort Worth, TX 76102

Monday – Friday: 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Saturdays: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(NOTE: The office is closed from noon to 1 p.m.)

Here are three helpful phone numbers:

Parking Ticket Information (817) 392-6742

Defensive Driving Office Window
Fort Worth Municipal Court (817) 392-8675

Citation Information (817) 392-6700

One of my checks written to the City of Fort Worth was returned “Non-sufficient Funds” (NSF). Where do I go to redeem it? Is there a fee?

Checks returned from any department in the City of Fort Worth except Water and Municipal Courts due to insufficient funds need to be redeemed in the Revenue Office, located on the lower level of City Hall. There is a \$25 returned check fee for all returned checks. You can call (817) 392-6692 for check status.

Traffic Accidents

What should I do if I have a traffic accident?

- For emergency accidents, call 911.
- For non-emergency accidents, call (817) 335-4222.

How do I get an accident report?

If the report is more than two years old, and the City of Fort Worth Police Department has record of the accident, you can submit a public information request to the Records and Information Management Office in City Hall. A fee of \$6 is assessed and it takes 6 – 10 days to get the report.

Records & Information Management Office
1000 Throckmorton St., L31
Fort Worth, TX 76102
(817) 392-8184

If the report is less than two years old, and the City of Fort Worth Police Department has record of the accident, you can get a copy of the report for a \$6 fee at the:

Police Records Division
350 W. Belknap St.
Fort Worth, TX 76102
(817) 392-4160

You will need to supply as much of the following information as possible, and by state law you must provide two of the four items listed below:

- Accident number
- Date of the accident
- Location of the accident
- Name(s) of the person involved

Auto Pound and Auctions

Where is the city's auto pound and when is it open?

The City of Fort Worth's auto pound is located at:

Auto Pound
1301 E. Northside Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76102
(817) 871-5950

The pound is located one mile west of Interstate 35 at Exit 53. It is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

How much does it cost to retrieve an impounded vehicle?

The cost of retrieving a vehicle within 24 hours is approximately \$173. Factors that may increase the cost are larger-sized vehicles, daily storage fees, notifications and other expenses.

How do I retrieve an impounded vehicle?

To view or retrieve an impounded vehicle, you must bring proof of ownership. Proof of ownership includes vehicle title, registration, contract or notarized bill of sale. To retrieve the vehicle, bring the required fee. For more information call the Auto Pound at (817) 871-5950.

Does the city have auto auctions for unclaimed vehicles?

Vehicles that are not claimed within 30 to 35 days are sold at auction. Auctions are normally held every other Wednesday. It is a good idea to call the auto pound for exact auction dates.