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Act 131 of 2020 makes it possible for Pennsylvanians experiencing homelessness to be issued a free initial photo ID or renewal. Individuals will be required to apply in person at a PennDOT Driver License Center and must meet identification and other requirements.

For purposes of application, you are “homeless” if you are an individual who:

1. lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence;
2. has a primary nighttime residence that is a place not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;
3. is living in a supervised shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and a hotel or motel paid for by a charitable organization or government program);
4. formerly resided in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation and who is now exiting an institution where you temporarily resided;
5. will imminently lose your housing, have no subsequent residence identified, and lack the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing. Evidence of imminent loss of housing includes: (i) a court order evicting you within 14 days; (ii) having a hotel or motel room as your primary nighttime residence but lacking the resources to stay there for more than 14 days; and (iii) credible evidence indicating that the owner or renter of your housing will not allow you to stay for more than 14 days; any credible oral statement from an applicant shall be sufficient evidence;
6. is an unaccompanied youth or in a homeless family with children and youth who: (i) has experienced a long term period without living independently in permanent housing, (ii) has experienced persistent instability as measured by frequent moves over such period, and (iii) expects to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of chronic disabilities, chronic physical or mental health conditions, addiction, domestic violence or childhood abuse, a child with a disability, or multiple barriers to employment; or
7. is fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic or dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions for you or that jeopardize children in your current housing situation, and you have no other residence and lack the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR A FREE IDENTIFICATION CARD?

Anyone who meets the definition of homelessness as describe above as defined in Section 103 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Applicants will be required to visit their local driver license center in person to complete the required application.

HOW CAN A HOMELESS INDIVIDUAL APPLY FOR A PHOTO IDENTIFICATION CARD?

The applicant must visit their local Driver License Center and inform counter staff they are applying or renewing their photo ID and are requesting a free ID due to their homeless status. For initial issuance, the applicant must bring one acceptable proof of identification (see Publication 195US or Publication 195NC), Social Security Card or Social Security Administration ineligibility letter and acceptable form/s of address verification. In the case of homeless individuals, PennDOT will accept a letter from a shelter indicating an individual is staying at the shelter or uses the shelter as an address of residency to pick up mail.

HOW DOES AN INDIVIDUAL RECEIVE A REPLACEMENT IDENTIFICATION CARD?

The individual may apply online at www.dmv.pa.gov or complete a DL-54B Photo Identification Card Application for Change/Correction/Replacement/Renew and visit their local Driver License Center. The law only covers initial issuance and renewals for photo identification cards for those that qualify for free issuance due to their homeless status. Duplicate fees apply and cannot be waived.

I AM HOMELESS AND CURRENTLY HAVE A PENNSYLVANIA PHOTO ID THAT HAS EXPIRED? DO I QUALIFY FOR A FREE RENEWAL?

Yes, individuals may visit their local Driver License Center and declare on a DL-54H Application for Initial/Renewal of a Photo Identification Card of Individuals Declaring Homeless Status that they are homeless.

CAN AN INDIVIDUAL DECLARING HOMELESS STATUS APPLY FOR A REAL ID?

Yes, if customer can provide the necessary documentation that is required for a REAL ID product. Please refer to the REAL ID Fact Sheet. The \$30 REAL ID fee will be required and cannot be waived.

HOW DO I OBTAIN A DL-54H APPLICATION?

You must visit your local driver license center to make application. At that time, the DL-54H application will be provided.

I AM HOMELESS AND CURRENTLY HAVE A PENNSYLVANIA DRIVER LICENSE THAT HAS EXPIRED? DO I QUALIFY FOR A FREE PHOTO ID?

Yes, individuals may visit their local Driver License Center and apply for a photo ID product.

I AM HOMELESS AND LOST MY CURRENT PENNSYLVANIA DRIVER'S LICENSE. CAN I APPLY FOR A FREE PHOTO ID?

Yes, individuals may visit their local Driver License Center and apply for a photo ID product.

I AM HOMELESS AND UNDER THE AGE OF 18, CAN I APPLY FOR A FREE PHOTO ID?

Yes, if you are under 18 years of age your parent, guardian, person in loco parentis, or spouse who is 18 years of age or older must accompany you. Proper identification is required and if the last names are different, verification of relationship is needed.

I WAS ISSUED A FREE PHOTO ID AND LOST/MISPLACED MY ID. HOW DO I RECEIVE A DUPLICATE?

You can apply online at www.dmv.pa.gov or visit your local driver license center. Duplicate fees apply and cannot be waived.

MY PHOTO ID IS EXPIRED OR WILL BE EXPIRING AND I AM NO LONGER HOMELESS, HOW CAN I RENEW MY PHOTO ID?

You can renew a photo ID online at www.dmv.pa.gov, by mail or by going to a local On-Line Messenger Service to have your renewal processed. If you have not received the computer-generated renewal application and it will expire in six months or less, you can obtain Form DL-54B. You must complete the application and mail it in to the address listed on the form with a check or money order payable to PennDOT for the appropriate fee.

I AM HOMELESS, I WAS BORN IN PENNSYLVANIA, AND DO NOT HAVE MY BIRTH CERTIFICATE IN MY POSSESSION, HOW CAN I APPLY FOR A REPLACEMENT?

Individuals experiencing homelessness can apply for a birth certificate on the Department of Health's website at <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/certificates/Pages/Forms.aspx> and click on the link for "Application for a Birth Certificate with Fees Waived for an Individual Who is Experiencing Homelessness". The \$20 fee for a birth certificate in Pennsylvania will be waived for individuals experiencing homelessness.