REAL ID Checklist

The documents to gather before a REAL ID appointment, grouped the way the DMV asks for them.

Proof of identity (bring one)

- [ ] Certified birth certificate with a raised or printed seal
  A hospital souvenir certificate is not accepted.
- [ ] Valid unexpired US passport or passport card
- [ ] Certificate of Naturalization or Citizenship
- [ ] Permanent Resident Card, or an unexpired foreign passport with a valid visa
- [ ] Consular Report of Birth Abroad

Proof of Social Security number (bring one)

- [ ] Social Security card, unlaminated and signed
- [ ] W-2 form showing your full SSN
- [ ] SSA-1099 or non-SSA-1099 form
- [ ] Pay stub showing your name and full SSN
  Many offices reject stubs that mask the number to the last four digits.

Proof of address (bring two, different sources)

- [ ] Utility bill dated within the last 60-90 days
- [ ] Bank or credit card statement with your name and street address
- [ ] Mortgage statement, deed, or signed rental lease
- [ ] Vehicle registration or insurance card
- [ ] Current state ID or driver's licence showing the same address
- [ ] Official mail from a federal, state or local agency
- [ ] Check both documents show the SAME address, spelled the same way
  A unit number on one and not the other is enough to be turned away.
- [ ] A PO box will not work as a residential address

Name-change papers (only if your name differs)

- [ ] Certified marriage certificate
- [ ] Divorce decree showing the name restoration
- [ ] Court order for a legal name change
- [ ] Line up every change in order, from the name on your birth certificate to the name you use now
  If you have married twice, the chain needs both certificates. A gap breaks the application.

Before you leave the house

- [ ] Check your state DMV page for extra documents it requires
- [ ] Book an appointment if your state offers one
- [ ] Complete the application form online in advance if available
- [ ] Confirm accepted payment methods for the fee
  Some offices still refuse credit cards.
- [ ] Pack originals or certified copies, not photocopies
- [ ] Put everything in one folder in the order above