



# Immigrant Legal Services Center

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## University of California Immigrant Legal Services Center (“Center”) REAL ID Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

*Please note: The FAQ below are informational and do not constitute legal advice. Each individual case is different, and advice may vary depending on the situation and moment in time. If you have any questions about your case, please contact a Center attorney for a consultation as soon as possible.*

### **What is REAL ID?**

REAL ID was passed by Congress in 2005 by the 9/11 Commission’s recommendation that the Federal Government “set standards for the issuance of sources of identification, such as driver’s licenses.” The Act established minimum security standards for state-issued driver licenses and identification cards and prohibits Federal agencies from accepting for official purposes licenses and identification cards from states that do not meet these standards.

### **Will REAL ID change how I travel?**

Beginning on January 22, 2018, travelers will need to show an alternative identification for domestic air travel only if they are from a state that is not compliant with REAL ID or a state that has not been granted an extension. *California, is not compliant with REAL ID yet but is taking the steps necessary to become compliant, they have been granted an extension until October 10, 2018*. Effectively, this means that residents of California can continue their domestic air travel without changes. Beginning October 1, 2020, every person travelling domestically by air will need to present a REAL ID-Compliant license or an acceptable alternative form of identification.

### **What if my identification is marked with “not for official federal purposes”?**

If an identification document is marked with “not for official federal purposes,” the holder isn’t necessarily undocumented; there are a variety of reasons why an individual would have this type of identification. However, you may be asked questions about your immigration status if you use a document that shows your country of citizenship (such as a non-U.S. passport or EAD card). If you need plan to travel domestically via air and you have an identification that is not for official federal purposes, please consult with an attorney.

For a list of acceptable forms of ID that are consistent with the REAL ID Act, please visit: <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification>.

## **How can I get a REAL ID compliant California ID or driver license?**

Starting January 22, 2018, eligible California residents can go in person to a DMV location to request a REAL ID Act-compliant driver license or identification card. Specific information about eligibility and procedures can be found on the CA DMV website:

[https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/realid!/ut/p/a0/04\\_Sj9CPykssy0xPLMnMz0vMAfGjzOK9PV1cDT3cDbzdTX0cDRy9PTz8w1zDjNwtjfULsh0VAe\\_Cq0o!/.](https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/realid!/ut/p/a0/04_Sj9CPykssy0xPLMnMz0vMAfGjzOK9PV1cDT3cDbzdTX0cDRy9PTz8w1zDjNwtjfULsh0VAe_Cq0o!/)