INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING FOR AN ILLINOIS TEMPORARY VISITORS DRIVERS LICENSE (TVDL)

What is the Temporary Visitor Driver's License?

The Illinois Secretary of State's Office issues a "Temporary Visitor Driver's License" (TVDL) for non-citizens of the United States who have been granted temporary, legal entry into this country and are temporarily residing in the State of Illinois and ineligible for a Social Security number. A TVDL is valid for three years, or for the period of time the individual is authorized to stay in this country, whichever ends sooner.

To be eligible for a TVDL, a foreign national must:

- Be a non-citizen of the United States residing in the State of Illinois;
- Be authorized by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to be present in this country, and provide documentation verifying such authorization;
- Not be required to obtain a driver's license issued by the U.S. Department of State, Office of Foreign Missions;
- Be authorized to be in the country for at least one year and have at least six months remaining on an authorized stay;
- Provide acceptable documentation that proves name, date of birth, Illinois residency and verification of written signature;
- Effective July 1, 2014 or after, a person age 18-20 must present proof of successful completion of a 6-hour adult driver education and training course.
- Pay the appropriate fee and successfully complete a vision screening and the appropriate written and road tests.
- A TVDL will be issued only in a Class D, L, M, DL or DM, authorizing operation of a personal car, motorcycle or motor-driven cycle. A TVDL is valid for three years or for the period of time the individual is authorized to stay in this country, whichever ends sooner.
- Individuals eligible for a TVDL may obtain an instruction permit allowing them to practice driving before taking their road exam. To obtain an instruction permit, the applicant must visit one of the designated Driver Services facilities: Bloomington, Carbondale, Champaign, Chicago North, Chicago West, Macomb, Rockford, Springfield (Dirksen Parkway)) and meet the requirements for obtaining a license for the first time.
- If you are under 21 years of age, you will need to complete an adult driver’s education program at one of the following providers: http://www.ilsos.gov/adultdrivered/providerlist

To apply for a Temporary Visitor Driver’s License (TVDL):

1. Verify that the international advisor has “registered” you in the SEVIS system
2. Review the items above to ensure you have everything before you go to the Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV)
3. Prepare for your driver’s test. Do this by studying the “Illinois Rules of the Road” section of the “Cyber Drive Illinois” web site listed below. If you would like to practice driving before your road test, you will need to apply for an instruction permit.

4. Have a licensed driver drive you to the Illinois Secretary of State’s DMV facility (call ahead to check for hours/availability):

   Chicago North                                      Chicago West
   5401 N. Elston Ave                             5301 W. Lexington Ave
   Chicago, IL 60630                               Chicago, IL 60644
   312-793-1010                                    312-793-1010

5. What to bring:
   a. Passport, Visa & I-94. For those who have been approved for a change of status, bring the Notice of Action that includes your new I-94.
   b. $30 fee
   c. Request letter of ineligibility (denial letter) from the Social Security office. This must be done no more than 90 days before applying for the TVDL.
   d. I-20 – NOT A COPY: Make sure your I-20 is valid for at least one year from the date you intend to apply for the driver’s license with at least 6 months remaining. If it is not, you will need to apply for a program extension first (if applicable).
   e. (2) Pieces of mail with a postmark from the Post Office as proof of Illinois residency, i.e., lease agreement, utility bill, CLC mailing that includes letter with name and address.

PLEASE NOTE:
• Per statute, a TVDL is only valid as long as the holder’s liability insurance is maintained
• A TVDL is for driving privileges only and cannot be used for identification purposes
• A TVDL may not be accepted for driving in other states. TVDL holders traveling to other states should check with those states’ Department of Motor Vehicles first.
• You are required to take and pass the written, vision and driving tests to obtain the TVDL. Keep in mind that Road Tests are only available until sunset or 30 minutes prior to closing, whichever is earlier. No Road Tests are given after dark.

For additional information concerning Temporary Visitor Driver’s License, refer to the Secretary of State “Cyber Drive Illinois” web site at:

http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/