

# What is an Ontario Photo Card and do you need one?



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## What is an Ontario Photo Card?

An Ontario Photo Card is a wallet-sized, government-issued photo identification that allows non-drivers, 16 years and over, to access the things that require proof of identity, such as many government, financial and business services.

### With an Ontario Photo Card, you can:

- cash a cheque
- open a bank account
- apply for a credit card
- board a domestic flight
- return merchandise to a store
- make hotel reservations (many hotels have a minimum age requirement)

### You can apply for an Ontario Photo Card if you:

- do not hold a valid driver's licence, photo card or identification card from any jurisdiction
- are a resident of Ontario, and
- are 16 years of age and older

## How to prove who you are

To apply for an Ontario Photo Card you must provide identity documents that prove your legal name, date of birth and signature. Check the lists on the back to find out what documents will satisfy the requirements.

You may need to bring more than one document to verify your identity. Photocopies, expired, invalid or cancelled identification documents are not accepted.

## What you need to know

The Ontario Photo Card cannot be used as standalone valid identification for international travel. It can be used as valid proof of identification for day-to-day business transactions.

You cannot have a valid driver's licence and an Ontario Photo Card at the same time. If you have an Ontario Photo Card and want to apply for a driver's licence, you must surrender your Ontario Photo Card as part of the application process so that your card can be cancelled.

If you have a driver's licence and want to apply for an Ontario Photo Card, you must surrender your driver's licence so that it can be cancelled. Once your driver's licence is cancelled and if you wish to return to driving, you may need to start the graduated driver licensing system at the G1 level.

### To apply for your Ontario Photo Card, you will need to bring:

- original identity documents to prove your legal name, date of birth and signature
- your marriage certificate, if you are applying under your married name
- a fee of \$35

## Photos

The picture on your photo identification must:

- be completely visible
- be free of any obstructions
- have a neutral facial expression

Headwear worn for religious or medical reasons can be worn, but must not cover any part of your face.

You may be asked to remove any headwear (e.g., eyeglasses) when taking a photo for government-issued identification.

## Renewing your Ontario Photo Card

Your Ontario Photo Card will need to be renewed every 5 years at a ServiceOntario centre.

### To renew your Ontario Photo Card at a ServiceOntario centre you need to bring:

- a renewal fee of \$35
- an additional piece of identification (only if your Ontario Photo Card has expired)

## Need more information?

Visit [ServiceOntario.ca/PhotoCard](http://ServiceOntario.ca/PhotoCard)

### By phone:

Toll-free (Canada): 1-800-267-8097  
TTY Toll-free (Canada): 1-800-268-7095

Find us at [ServiceOntario.ca](http://ServiceOntario.ca)

ServiceOntario.ca  
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## Option 1

You only need 1 document from this list to satisfy all 3 identification requirements.

► I'm bringing:

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OR

## Option 2

You may need up to 3 documents from this list to satisfy all 3 identification requirements.

► I'm bringing:

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## Support documents

If the names on your documents do not match because you have changed your last name, you will need to provide proof of your name change.

► I'm bringing:

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You must provide identity documents that prove your date of birth, legal name and signature. More than one document may be needed to satisfy all 3 identification requirements.

## Option 1

You only need 1 document from this list to satisfy all 3 identification requirements.

**Choose one:**

**Meets all 3 identification requirements**

- Passport – Canadian
- Passport – Foreign
- Canadian Citizenship Card with photo
- Canadian permanent resident card with signature
- Record of Landing (IMM 1000)
- Confirmation of Permanent Resident (IMM 5292)
- Report Pursuant to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IMM 1442) with photo
- Student Authorization/Study Permit (IMM 1442)
- Employment Authorization/Work Permit (IMM 1442)
- Visitor Record (IMM 1442)
- Temporary Resident's Permit (IMM 1442) – formerly Minister's Permit/Extension of Minister's Permit
- Secure Certificate of Indian Status Card – issued on or after December 15, 2009, by Indian & Northern Affairs Canada
- Driver's licence or enhanced driver's licence issued by Ontario

Note that some restrictions may apply. For a full list of details, please visit [ServiceOntario.ca/PhotoCard](http://ServiceOntario.ca/PhotoCard).

OR

## Option 2

You may need up to 3 documents from this list to satisfy all 3 identification requirements.

**Choose from:**

**Meets requirements for legal name and date of birth**

- Canadian birth certificate, or a proof of birth document issued by a U.S. jurisdiction
- Canadian permanent resident card without signature (issued after February 4, 2012)
- Certified copy of Statement of Live Birth (issued by Ontario only)
- U.S. Passport Card

**Meets requirements for legal name**

- Government-issued proof of marriage document (issued by the jurisdiction that registered the event)

**Meets requirements for date of birth**

- Nexus Card and FAST/EXPRESS Card

**Meets requirements for signature**

- Certificate of Indian Status (laminated card issued by Indian & Northern Affairs Canada)
- Driver's licence or enhanced driver's licence – issued by another Canadian or U.S. jurisdiction
- Identity card – issued by a Canadian or U.S. jurisdiction (enhanced or non-enhanced)
- Ontario photo health card
- Ontario student card with signature
- Declaration from a guarantor (SR-LD-40)
- Canadian Department of National Defence (DND) identity card
- Canadian Department of National Defence Driver's Licence (DND 404)

## Support documents:

Proof of change of name if required

**Choose one:**

**Meets requirements for proof of change of surname only**

- Government-issued proof of marriage document
  - Canadian or foreign
  - issued by federal/provincial/territorial/state government
  - original or certified copy

This support document allows applicant to adopt spouse's surname for use on Ontario Photo Card. Religious institution/church/ceremony-issued proof of marriage documents are not accepted.

**Meets requirements for proof of change of name only**

- Change of name certificate
  - Canadian or foreign
  - issued by federal/provincial/territorial/state government

**Meets requirements for proof of change of name, change of surname only, for adoption, and for change to date of birth**

- Court order, showing legal name, date of birth and court seal
  - obtained for purposes of name change, divorce, or adoption

**Meets requirements where no date of birth or only partial date of birth (e.g., only the year) is available**

- Sworn affidavit with support documents is required to confirm the date of birth