



# Driving Licenses



## Veteran's Driver's License - Free Version

This special version of a Georgia driver's license includes a U.S. flag and the word VETERAN prominently displayed on the front.

An honorably discharged veteran is entitled to a free veteran's driver's license if two criteria are met: Georgia residency and service during a recognized period of war or conflict.

There are two ways to meet the Georgia residency requirement:

- The veteran entered service from Georgia (as shown on DD Form 214) and is a current resident of Georgia.
- The veteran has been a legal Georgia resident for the past two consecutive years.

To meet the wartime service requirement, a veteran must have served on active duty during any of the recognized service periods. This includes service in the National Guard or the Reserves, if such service included placement on active duty during a recognized war or conflict. It does not include periodic transfer from reserve status to active duty for training purposes.

Recognized service periods:

- World War II: December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1946
- Korea: June 27, 1950 - January 31, 1955
- Lebanon Conflict: July 1, 1958 - November 1, 1958
- Vietnam: July 1, 1958 - May 7, 1975
- Berlin Conflict: August 14, 1961 - June 1, 1963.
- Dominican Republic Conflict: April 28, 1965 - Sept. 21, 1966
- Grenada Conflict: October 23, 1983 - November 21, 1983
- Panama Liberation: December 30, 1989 - February 15, 1990
- Persian Gulf: August 2, 1990 - present

A member or former member of the National Guard with 20 or more years of creditable service also qualifies. The veteran should obtain certification from the [Adjutant General of the State of Georgia](#) [1] and include it with the other required documentation.

In order to obtain a veteran's driver's license (free or paid), the applying veteran must take the required documentation to a [GDVS Veterans Field Service Office](#) [2]. A service officer will verify the veteran's eligibility and issue a Certificate of Eligibility (DS-516).

The veteran must then take the completed DS-516, together with all required identifying documents (birth

certificate or passport; Social Security card; two documents showing residential address; and, if applicable, name change documentation) to a [Georgia Department of Driver Services \(DDS\) office](#) <sup>[3]</sup>. A DDS representative will administer a vision exam, verify the veteran's eligibility, and issue a veteran's driver's license.

For more information, call 678-413-8400 (Metro Atlanta) or 866-754-3687 (outside Metro Atlanta), or visit the [Department of Driver Services](#) <sup>[3]</sup>.

### **Veteran's Driver's License - Paid Version**

An honorably discharged veteran who does not meet the criteria (residency or wartime service) to obtain a free veteran's driver's license may obtain the license by paying the standard licensing fee.

## **National Guard Driver's License**

Any member of the Georgia National Guard or Reserve who is in good standing and has completed at least one year of satisfactory service is eligible for a free National Guard Driver's License.

In order to apply, an eligible member should obtain a Certificate of Eligibility (DS-318) from the National Guard Commanding Officer and take it, together with all required identifying documents (birth certificate or passport; Social Security card; two documents showing residential address; and, if applicable, name change documentation) to a [Georgia Department of Driver Services](#) <sup>[3]</sup> (DDS) office. A DDS representative will administer a vision exam, verify eligibility, and issue a free National Guard driver's license.

For more information, call 678-413-8400 (Metro Atlanta) or 866-754-3687 (outside Metro Atlanta), or visit the [Department of Driver Services](#) <sup>[3]</sup>.

A member of the National Guard with 20 years of service may obtain a free veteran's driver's license. Please refer to the [Veteran's Driver's License](#) <sup>[4]</sup> section.

## **Honorary Driver's License - Spouse**

The spouse of a qualified veteran, whose disabilities preclude operating a motor vehicle, is eligible for a free honorary driver's license. Residence and qualifying service terms are the same as stated for a [free veteran's driver's license](#) <sup>[4]</sup>.

The surviving unremarried spouse of an eligible deceased veteran is eligible for a free honorary driver's license. Residence and qualifying service terms are the same as stated for a free veteran's driver's license.

In order to obtain a free honorary driver's license, take proof of the spouse's qualifying service and residency to a [GDVS Veterans Field Service Office](#) <sup>[5]</sup>. Also provide verification of spouse's disabilities that preclude operating a motor vehicle or a copy of spouse's death certificate, whichever is applicable. A service officer will verify eligibility and issue a completed Certificate of Eligibility (DS-516).

The spouse must then take the completed DS-516, together with all required identifying documents (birth

certificate or passport; Social Security card; two documents showing residential address; and, if applicable, name change documentation) to a [Georgia Department of Driver Services](#) <sup>[6]</sup> (DDS) office. A DDS representative will administer a vision exam, verify eligibility, and issue a free honorary driver's license.

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