



PREVENTIVE LAW SERIES
**DRIVERS' LICENSE
EXTENSIONS**



Prepared by:
Legal Assistance Department
Region Legal Service Office Southwest
3395 Sturtevant Street Suite 9
San Diego CA 92136-5072
(619) 556-2211

Being an active duty servicemember does **NOT** automatically exempt you from the requirements for maintaining a current, valid driver's license from your home state. Not all states have an automatic extension for driver's license renewal. Each state has its own law on this matter, briefly described below. **THE SERVICEMEMBERS' CIVIL RELIEF ACT DOES NOT EXEMPT MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM UPDATING THEIR DRIVER'S LICENSE.** However, many states do allow for more flexibility with regard to how and when you must apply for a license renewal.

NOTE: Some states permit "automatic" extensions of your license beyond its date of expiration. If you plan to rely on this "automatic" extension it is still a very good idea to get in touch with your state's Department of Motor Vehicles to obtain a letter verifying that the license remains valid. This will help you avoid arguments with law enforcement in other states that may not be aware of the "automatic extension." Moreover, letting your local DMV know about your use of the "automatic" extension may prevent the DMV from deleting your information from its records, or sending you stern letters warning you to renew.

Alabama: Alabama residents in the military, or their dependents, can apply for driver's license renewal by mail, if license is less than four years old. www.dps.alabama.gov/Home/wfContent.aspx?ID=30&PLH1=plhDriverLicense-FAQ

Alaska: As long as you or your spouse is active duty, your non-commercial driver's license is valid. Automatic extension for service member valid for 90 days after discharge or return to state, whichever occurs first. You may also request a "military expiration endorsement," though it is not required. www.doa.alaska.gov/dmv/akol/military.htm

Arizona: Automatic extension valid until 6 months after discharge, with notification of active duty status to MVD. Online, phone, and mail renewal available. www.azdot.gov/mvd/driver-services/MilitaryPersonnel

Arkansas: Renewal by mail and phone permitted. Call the Office of Driver Services at (501) 682-7059 to request an application. www.dfa.arkansas.gov/offices/driverServices/Pages/FAQ%27s.aspx#r

California: License automatically extended up to 30 days after return to state when carried with an "Extension of License for Person in Armed Forces (DL 236)" card. Obtain this card by calling (916) 657-7790. www.dmv.ca.gov/dl/dl_info.htm#military

Colorado: Free 3-year license extension available, within a year of expiration, by submitting form DR2989, "Out of State Extension." Mail and Internet renewal available, but new license will only be mailed directly to duty station in response to mail renewal requests. <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dmv/active-duty-military-and-veterans>.

Connecticut: No automatic extension. Free mail renewal available for those with a photo on file, valid for up to 30 days after honorable discharge and return to the state. Mail renewals may not entitle holder to enroll in the state's "Real ID" program. www.ct.gov/dmv/cwp/view.asp?a=805&q=244760

Delaware: No automatic extension. Mail renewal available. http://www.dmv.de.gov/services/driver_services/other/dr_oth_military_renewal.shtml

District of Columbia: No automatic extension. Online renewal available in limited circumstances with supporting documentation. <http://www.dmv.org/washington-dc/military-drivers/>

WARNING: PROVIDED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND NOT INTENDED TO BE TAKEN AS SPECIFIC LEGAL ADVICE. FOR LEGAL ADVICE IN A PARTICULAR SITUATION, ALWAYS CONSULT WITH AN ATTORNEY.

Florida: No automatic extension. Free extension card valid until 90 days after discharge or return to state. Apply online, by mail, or by phone. www.flhsmv.gov/ddl/renewing.html

Georgia: No automatic extension but 6 month grace period while on active duty outside Georgia and upon discharge. Renew online or by mail. Six month renewal grace period for active duty after discharge or return to state. www.dds.ga.gov/drivers/dldata.aspx?con=1741838154&ty=d/

Hawaii: Varies by county. Mail renewal may be available. <http://hidot.hawaii.gov/highways/faqs/>

Idaho: No automatic extension; no mail renewal. If the expiration date is within the next 25 months, active duty military can renew their driver's license in person before deployment. If the expiration date is more than 25 months away and it falls on a date when you know you will be out of the state, active duty military can request an extension. Active duty personnel may obtain an extension by mail, for up to four years. www.itd.idaho.gov/dmv/armed_forces.htm

Illinois: No automatic extension. Active duty military and any dependents living with them can obtain deferment of the expiration of their license for up to 120 days following discharge or reassignment back to Illinois. May renew online, by mail, over the phone, or in person. http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/drivers/drivers_license/dlfaq.html

Indiana: Automatic extension for military personnel and dependents until 90 days after discharge. To obtain a new license, may apply for a "30-day interim credential" until able to return to Indiana. Renewal available online. www.in.gov/bmv/2343.htm

Iowa: Request, by fax or mail, an extension that will be valid until 6 months after discharge. Dependents may request a 5-year extension. www.iowadot.gov/mvd/ods/renewal.htm

Kansas: Mail renewal available. Extension available for up to 6 months. Holders under 21 years of age complete separate forms. www.ksrevenue.org/dmvdoutofstate.html

Kentucky: No automatic extension. Mail renewal available; contact the circuit clerk's office in the Kentucky County of residence for an application and instructions. If you allow your driver's license to expire, active duty military have 90 days upon return to Kentucky to renew their licenses without taking the written and road tests again. www.transportation.ky.gov/Driver-Licensing/Pages/Driver-License-ID-Card-General-Information.aspx

Louisiana: Extension for service members serving outside Louisiana and dependents valid until 60 days after discharge. Write to local DMV office to request license be "flagged" as active duty military. In addition, online renewal is available. dpsweb.dps.louisiana.gov/omvfaqs.nsf/7317dab6a217a12586256ec30067232f7e5b94bc4e2d7efd86256d890055808e?OpenDocument

Maine: Free online renewal available with a "K" endorsement on license, otherwise you will be charged a fee to renew online. <http://www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/licenses/renewfaq.html>

Maryland: May request a renewal via mail, phone or e-mail. Temporary licenses may also be available for durations of 90 days or less. Proof of active duty service may be required. www.mva.maryland.gov/drivers/apply/military.htm

Massachusetts: Automatic extension valid until 60 days after honorable discharge for service member, but NOT for dependents. Member may request a "non-photo" renewal by mail. www.massrmv.com/rmv/license/14milit.htm

Michigan: License may be renewed online, or in person up to 12 months before expiration. May otherwise renew by mail as long as license has not been expired more than 4 years and no photos need to be updated. Dependents may renew online but are not entitled time extensions. www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1627_8669_53332---,00.html

Minnesota: Automatic renewal for military and dependents. <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/Pages/dvs-content-detail.aspx?pageID=542>

WARNING: PROVIDED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND NOT INTENDED TO BE TAKEN AS SPECIFIC LEGAL ADVICE. FOR LEGAL ADVICE IN A PARTICULAR SITUATION, ALWAYS CONSULT WITH AN ATTORNEY.

Mississippi: No automatic extension. Mail renewal available for military and dependents with copy of driver's license or social security card, first page of current military orders, and a letter from CO. www.dps.state.ms.us/driver-services/new-drivers-license/military-personnel

Missouri: Mail renewal available for member and dependents for up to six months from honorable discharge or within ninety days of reestablishing residency in Missouri, whichever occurs first. www.dor.mo.gov/military

Montana: Automatic extension for service members until 30 days after discharge upon notification to state of military status via e-mail or phone. www.doj.mt.gov/driving/driver-licensing

Nebraska: Automatic extension for active duty and dependents up to 60 days after discharge or return to Nebraska, whichever is later. Driver must apply by mail for and carry 07-08 card. Application Form 07-08 available on website. Mail renewal also available. www.dmv.state.ne.us/dvr/dvrec/military.html

Nevada: No automatic extension. Mail renewal available. Online renewal available if driver has received renewal application with access code. www.dmvnv.com/milnvres.htm

New Hampshire: No automatic extension. Active duty and dependents may apply by mail for extension by submitting documents available on website. www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/dmv/driver-licensing/military-personnel/index.htm

New Jersey: Automatic extension valid during active duty and for 2 weeks after discharge. Driver must carry extension letter (available on website) and proof of active duty status. Extension does not waive renewal fees. www.state.nj.us/mvc/Licenses/military.htm

New Mexico: Automatic extension valid during active duty and for 31 days after discharge or return to state. www.mvd.newmexico.gov/military.aspx

New York: Automatic extension valid during active duty and for 6 months after discharge provided form MV-75, available online, has been filed with DMV. May otherwise renew with by providing a letter from commanding officer. www.dmv.ny.gov/more-info/driver-licenses-learner-permits-and-non-driver-photo-id-cards

North Carolina: No automatic extension. Mail renewal available up to two times with copy of orders. Can renew license in advance. www.ncdot.gov/dmv/military

North Dakota: Automatic extension valid during active duty and for 30 days after discharge. Driver must carry proof of military service. Mail renewal available. <http://www.dot.nd.gov/divisions/driverslicense/activeduty.htm>

Ohio: No automatic extension. Mail renewal available. Renewal in person may be waived up to 6 months after discharge. www.bmv.ohio.gov/faq_driver_license.stm#tog

Oklahoma: Automatic extension valid during active duty and for 60 days following return to the state. Mail renewal available. <http://www.dps.state.ok.us/dls/rbm.htm>

Oregon: No automatic extension. Mail renewal through Valid-With-Previous-Photo (VWPP) package, available online for active duty and dependents. www.oregon.gov/ODOT/DMV/driverid/military_personnel_driver.shtml

Pennsylvania: Automatic extension valid during active duty and for 45 days following discharge or return to state for service members and dependents. Driver must carry documentation indicating service assignment outside the state. Mail and online renewal available. www.dmv.state.pa.us/militaryCenter/personnel.shtml

Rhode Island: No automatic extension. May renew online or through the mail. <http://www.dmv.ri.gov/licenses/oosRenewal/>

South Carolina: No automatic extension. Renew in person or through the mail. www.scdmsonline.com/dmvnew/default.aspx?n=driver_license_renewals

WARNING: PROVIDED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND NOT INTENDED TO BE TAKEN AS SPECIFIC LEGAL ADVICE. FOR LEGAL ADVICE IN A PARTICULAR SITUATION, ALWAYS CONSULT WITH AN ATTORNEY.

South Dakota: Automatic extension valid during active duty and for 30 days after discharge or return to state, according to S.D. Cod. L. 32-12-45. Driver must carry proof of military service. Mail and online renewal available. https://dps.sd.gov/licensing/driver_licensing/Renewing_Your_Driver_License_Online_or_by_Mail.aspx

Tennessee: Automatic extension valid for 60 days after discharge or return to state for active duty, but not for dependents. May file documents with state in advance to have military status reflected on license. <http://www.tn.gov/safety/article/dlrenew>

Texas: Automatic extension valid for 90 days after honorable discharge or return to state. Mail renewal may be available for active duty but not dependents. www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/nonmilitaryrenewal.htm

Utah: No automatic extension. May renew online. May also renew in person up to 6-months prior to expiration. <http://dld.utah.gov/utah-driver-license-renewal/>

Vermont: Automatic extension for 4 years from expiration date. Must renew within 30 days of discharge. www.dmv.vermont.gov/licenses/drivers/military_extensions

Virginia: One 3-year extension granted on request for active duty and dependents. Request for military extension packet may be made by mail, and driver will need to carry an "Extension Card" with license. www.dmv.state.va.us/drivers/#military_guide.asp

Washington: Automatic extension for military personnel and dependents expires 90 days after honorable discharge. www.dol.wa.gov/driverslicense/military.html

West Virginia: Automatic extension valid for 6 months after honorable discharge. <http://www.transportation.wv.gov/DMV/Drivers/Pages/Drivers-Licenses.aspx>

Wisconsin: Does not expire for active duty military stationed outside of state. Automatic extension valid for 30 days after return to state or 90 days after discharge, whichever comes first. Mail renewal available. May also extend expiration date before leaving the state on active duty orders. <http://wisconsin.gov/Pages/dmv/license-drvs/military-svc/active-duty.aspx>

Wyoming: No automatic extension. Mail renewal available, but must appear to renew in person upon return to the state. After an in-person renewal, license may indicate that expiration date is waived when accompanied by an active-duty military ID card, but thereafter driver must again appear in person to renew when visiting Wyoming. www.dot.state.wy.us/home/driver_license_records/lost_renewal.default.html

***** Most extensions only apply if other than dishonorable discharge is received! ***
CONSULT YOUR STATE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES
OR EQUIVALENT STATE AGENCY FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

LEGAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

A legal assistance attorney is available by appointment Monday 0800 - 1100 and 1300 - 1500, Tuesday through Thursday from 0900 - 1100 and 1300 - 1500, and Friday from 0900 - 1100. Powers of attorney and notaries are available Monday through Friday at the same times. For more information, please contact the Legal Assistance Office, located in Building 56, 32nd Street Naval Station, San Diego, CA, by telephone at (619) 556-2211, or our office at Naval Air Station North Island – Coronado, Building 318 – Second Deck, above the Fleet and Family Support Center, Saufley Road, by telephone at (619) 767-1686.

**WARNING: PROVIDED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND NOT INTENDED TO BE TAKEN AS SPECIFIC LEGAL ADVICE.
FOR LEGAL ADVICE IN A PARTICULAR SITUATION, ALWAYS CONSULT WITH AN ATTORNEY.**