



Department of Natural Resources

A GUIDE TO CHANGING YOUR RESIDENCY STATUS

Thank you for your interest in changing your Iowa residency status. The Iowa DNR appreciates your contribution to wildlife management and your choice to participate in the rich heritage of hunting, fishing and trapping in our state.

To qualify as an Iowa resident for hunting and fishing licenses, customers must:

- Claim Iowa as their primary place of residency.
- Live in Iowa for at least 90 days immediately prior to purchasing licenses.
- Have an Iowa driver's license or Iowa non-operator's identification.

Residency requirements protect the rights of Iowa citizens; therefore, the Iowa DNR has developed a process to ensure requirements are met before a customer's residency status is updated on his/her account.

HOW TO UPDATE YOUR RESIDENCY STATUS

If you have **ever** purchased an Iowa hunting/fishing license or have registered a recreational vehicle in Iowa as a **nonresident** and are now a resident, you must:

- Submit the [residency application](#) to obtain resident privileges.

If you have **never** been licensed to hunt or fish, nor registered recreation vehicles in Iowa and are now a resident, you must:

- Present your Iowa driver's license at time of purchase/registration. Your driver's license must be valid for at least 90 days at time of purchase.
- If your driver's license is not 90 days old, but you have lived in Iowa for 90 days, you may submit the [residency application](#) form to show you have completed the 90-day residency requirement to obtain resident privileges.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why does my Iowa driver's license not suffice as proof of residency?

There are a couple different reasons why your Iowa driver's license does not always suffice:

1. Residency requirements for hunting and fishing are different than for obtaining a driver's license; therefore, a driver's license does not always reflect 90-day residency status.
2. Unfortunately, driver's licenses are not always updated properly and within the timeframes as customers move into and out of state. Other supporting documentation as outlined on the application helps determine true residency and ensures customers are not holding current resident privileges in another state.

Do I need to submit everything on this form?

The list of supporting documentation requested has been carefully chosen to help customers in many different types of living situations show their 90-day residency. Some of the documentation might not be relevant to your living situation. Please submit or provide explanation for all requested documentation to help DNR staff make a determination as quickly as possible.

Why do I have to submit this information? Can't your agency see that I pay Iowa taxes, have an Iowa driver's license, etc....?

The Iowa DNR does not have access to records information from all other state agencies; for your protection, records are often secure. Your partnership is highly valued and helps complete the process as quickly as possible.

I have been living in Iowa for several years. Do I still have to fill out the application?

If you have been here for several years and are a nonresident in our system, you still need to fill out the [residency application](#) at this time.

Do my minor children also need to fill out the residency application to obtain resident privileges?

Children under 18 with a parent/legal guardian that is an Iowa resident are also considered Iowa residents and do not need to fill out an application.

What provisions do you have for active duty military?

There is an allowance for dual residency for customers who are on active military duty and stationed in Iowa. While stationed in Iowa, you may obtain resident privileges; please contact the DNR at 515-725-8200 to get your account set up for purchasing.

What provisions do you have for college students attending Iowa schools?

Full-time students enrolled at an Iowa college or university and residing in Iowa while attending school qualify for resident hunting and fishing privileges. Please submit the [residency application](#) (see the student section) to get your account updated with your resident status.

Can I get a resident license if I am not a citizen of the United States?

Citizens of other countries are only eligible to purchase nonresident privileges. You may qualify as a resident if you are a foreign exchange student over the age of 16 attending an Iowa high school or Iowa college or university. If you are a student, please submit the [residency application](#) (student section) to get your account updated with your resident status.