

Secondary Identification

If your driver's license, military id, U.S. or valid foreign passport or state-issued id was issued more than six months ago, then you can properly identify yourself. However, if it was issued within six months, it is not sufficient id to prove your identity.

By way of explanation the main reason for making a personal appearance at a post office or courthouse is for the acceptance agent to establish that you are, indeed, who you say you are. The clerk verifies your identity by checking your drivers license and ascertaining that the person in the drivers license photo is you. The clerk also verifies that the passport photos you submit are, in fact, pictures of you. Persons wanting to commit passport fraud are more likely to secure a drivers license then go and secure a passport. To prohibit this, the passport agency requires that you must have had your current drivers license for at least six months. If you have not had your drivers license for six months even if it was renewed, you must produce other proof of your identity. If you do not, the issuance of your passport will be suspended.

Submit photocopies of at least four documents listed below. Do not submit original copies of the documents; send only photocopies. The passport agency is looking for official documents prepared by a third party and which were issued in the past, ideally some should have been issued longer than 5 years ago. Documents that bear your photograph, signature and/or physical description are particularly helpful. You should submit at least one copy of current picture identification such as drivers license, state-issued or military identification.

Other documents that you can submit include:

- Current or expired drivers license
- Employment ID cards or records such as a pay stub or W-2 form
- Governmental IDs
- Military or government service records
- Union membership cards
- Welfare, Medicare, Medicaid cards or records
- Professional license cards
- Mortgage, lease or rental
- Marriage certificate or license
- Insurance cards or records
- Expired passports
- Student IDs, school or college transcripts, diplomas or yearbooks showing name and photo
- Baptismal certificates or records
- Circumcision certificates or records
- Voter registration card
- Tax records
- Banking records and ATM cards
- Newspaper articles showing your name and/or photo
- Children birth certificates showing parents names
- Social Security card and records