

How to get ID

Personal Identification

Having valid government-issued identification on-hand will speed up the process for service and will remove the chances of missing a housing opportunity due to lack of ID.

Identification commonly required to use public services and programs:

- Birth certificate for proof of citizenship
- Health card to access public health services
- Driver's license or provincial photo card that includes photo, address, and signature
- Social insurance number is needed to be employed, to file income tax returns, and to claim certain financial benefits

Please note that when applying for a Canadian birth certificate, you must be able to provide a guarantor to confirm your identity. The guarantor must be someone you have known for at least two years and have an approved profession. If you do not have a guarantor, you may write a letter of explanation or a letter of reference. Visit [Service Ontario](#) for more information.

For people seeking housing, some form of official identification is required, and it usually includes government-issued photo identification (such as driver's license or provincial photo card). This identification is often requested when a landlord wishes to enter into a formal lease agreement with the tenant, as the lease agreement is a legal document where the tenant's identity will need to be confirmed. In Ontario, residents should contact [Service Ontario](#) for information about drivers licenses and provincial photo cards.

Free ID Clinic Services in Durham Region for Canadian Birth Certificates

A birth certificate is the one of the most essential pieces of ID. The following are programs available for low-income individuals and families to receive assistance in replacing a birth certificate:



- [Carea](#) services all Oshawa, Whitby, Ajax and Pickering
- [Community Living Durham North \(CLDN\)](#) services Uxbridge, Brock, and Scugog
- [John Howard Society of Durham Region](#) which Bowmanville, Oshawa, and Whitby
- [North House](#) which Uxbridge, Brock, Scugog

Guidance for replacing lost or stolen identification

For individuals who can apply for and secure their own identification, this section provides tips, tools and links to more resources for replacing key pieces of identification.

When you have all your replacement documentation, it is a good idea to photocopy them and keep them in a safe place. Having photocopies available will help should you lose any of your identification in the future.

Birth Certificate

You can apply online to replace your birth certificate by visiting [Service Ontario](#) and completing the required forms. To order a birth certificate you will need:

- Your first and last name, mailing address, and phone number,
- Date of birth, sex, and city of birth,
- Previous legal names (if applicable),
- Parents' information (full names including mother's maiden name, dates and cities of birth, etc.),
- A guarantor (full name and contact details) if the subject/applicant is 9 years and older.

Health Card

If you need a replacement photo health-card because it has been lost or damaged, then visit [Service Ontario](#) to find out how to replace your card. If the card is expired, or the information on it is no longer correct, you will need to apply in person for the replacement to have your photo and signature electronically documented.

When attending in person you must bring original documents to prove (1) citizenship/immigration status, (2) address in Ontario and (3) identity (refer to the



[Ontario Health Coverage Document List](#). A driver's license (or an Ontario Photo Card) and birth certificate are generally acceptable. Go to [Ministry of Health](#) and search “OHIP forms” to download application and renewal forms online.

Social Insurance Number

To apply for your Social Insurance Number (SIN), to confirm your SIN, or to update your SIN record, you can [apply online at Service Canada](#) or will need to take the required identity documents to the nearest Service Canada location. For those born in Canada, a birth certificate should be enough identification to apply for the SIN card. If everything is in order, you will get your SIN during your visit.

