

ID requirements to access benefits

In order to apply for and access benefits, an individual must have a number of identification documents. Note that not all benefits require documents from each category below, but different benefits have their own requirements. Below are the categories of ID and examples of documents that are accepted under each category.

Proof of birth

A document with first name, last name and date of birth:

- Birth certificate or birth registration
- Hospital record of birth or record of the physician/nurse/midwife who attended the birth
- Passport
- Record of landing or confirmation of permanent residence issued by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
- Citizenship certificate
- Note of decision or temporary resident's permit issued under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act
- Certificate of Indian status card
- Provincial identity card

Proof of residency in Canada

- Lease agreement
- Rent receipt
- Household bill (e.g. gas, electricity, cable television, telephone)
- Driver's license
- Vehicle registration or car insurance
- Membership in social or professional organizations
- Bank information (e.g. bank account statements for saving or chequing accounts)
- Employment information (e.g. pay stub)

Proof of legal status

A document showing citizenship or immigration status in Canada:

- Canadian birth certificate
- Citizenship card/certificate
- Confirmation document
 - record of landing, confirmation of permanent residence
 - permanent resident card
 - visitor record
 - temporary resident permit
 - study permit
- Notice of decision
- Verification of status document
- Registration date with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

Be aware:

Some people may have difficulty obtaining immigration papers due to inability to recall dates and information, particularly if their arrival in Canada was many years ago.

Proof of housing situation

- Copy of rental/leasing agreement
- Letter from landlord
- Eviction notice
- Disconnection notice
- Police report
- Moving company quote or invoice
- Utility bills

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Proof of death

A document that provides the name, date, and place of death. The document must also be on official letterhead or contain a seal, and provide the name and/or signature of the person or authority issuing the document.

- Burial certificate or death certificate
- Certification of death from another country
- Life or Group Insurance Claim along with a statement signed by a medical doctor
- Medical Certification of Death
- Memorandum of Notification of Death issued by the Chief of National Defence Staff
- Notarial copy of Letters of Probate
- Official Death Certificate
- Official Notification from the Public Trustee for a Province
- Registration of Death
- Statement of a medical doctor, coroner, or funeral director
- Statement of Verification of Death from the Department of Veterans Affairs

Be aware:

Some papers obtained outside of Canada will need to be translated.

Proof of primary responsibility for the care and upbringing of a child

- Letter from daycare or school authorities indicating the child's home address and contact information on file
- Letter from a social worker, a physician, a band council, or a resettlement officer stating that they have personal knowledge that the child lived with the individual for the period indicated
- Registration form or a receipt from an activity or club the child was enrolled in for the period indicated
- A court order, decree, or separation agreement that explains the type of custody arrangement (for example, shared custody) and clearly shows the living arrangements for the child
- Any other document showing that the child lived with the individual for the period indicated