

DOMICILE GUIDE – SD

Interested in establishing your domicile in South Dakota? Take a look at the steps below to understand what tasks and forms should be completed.

South Dakota is a state that has taken an extra step and created an “exception” clause for non-traditional residents (full-time RVers) often referred to as “nomads.” Here is an excerpt taken from the South Dakota Department of Public Safety website:

“People who travel full-time – If you are using a South Dakota mail forwarding address, you will need to complete the Residency Affidavit. You will also need to provide one document proving your temporary South Dakota address (a hotel/motel, campground or RV park receipt no more than one year old) and ONE DOCUMENT no more than ONE year old proving your personal mailbox (PMB) service address (receipt from the PMB business or a piece of mail with your PMB address on it).”

The exception language (above) that South Dakota built in for full-time RVers applies for Driver’s Licenses and Vehicle Registrations. Remember that your “Residency Affidavit” is required and has strict penalties for perjury. We always recommend that you contact your attorney or seek legal counsel if you have any questions.

The information contained on these pages is not to be considered legal advice. You should always check with your attorney to confirm specific state laws and how they might apply to your personal situation.

Steps to Becoming a South Dakota Resident (See following pages for details)

Step 1: Secure a Mailing Address with Escapees Mail Service.

Step 2: Establish professional and social connections within the county of domicile.

Step 3: Prepare the driver’s license application, the vehicle registration.

Step 4: Create an official record of intent to domicile.

Step 5: Appear in the state.

Documents to Bring With You

- Vehicle Insurance for Your South Dakota Address
- Current Valid Driver’s License
- Provide a certified copy of your birth certificate, valid passport, valid permanent resident card, valid employment authorization document, or unexpired valid U.S. Visa. If your name has changed you will need to provide proof of the name change
- Provide a non-altered Social Security Card or Medicare card (with complete social security number).
- Bring proof of your residential address:
 - Residency Affidavit
 - Campground/RV park receipt or hotel/motel receipt

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- One document (not more than one year old) proving your personal mailbox (PMB) address. Escapes Mail Service members will receive an email with the South Dakota address*
- Complete the Application for Motor Vehicle Title and Registration*
<https://dor.sd.gov/individuals/motor-vehicle/>
- Attach the out-of-state title to the application*
- If applicable, complete a damage disclosure*
<https://dor.sd.gov/individuals/motor-vehicle/>
- For a recreational vehicle, submit the following:*
 - Purchase Order, Sales Contract, or Bill of Sale*
 - Manufacturers Statement of Origin*

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Becoming a Resident - Details

Step 1: Secure a Mailing Address with Escapees Mail Service

- Contact Escapees RV Club at 936-327-4388.
- As an Escapees mail service member, you may elect to use “Escapees: Home” as an additional mail service benefit. This service is specifically geared for full-time RVers who have sold their brick and mortar homes. Escapees: Home allows you to use our Box Elder, South Dakota satellite center as your physical address for state-specific documents (such as driver license and vehicle registrations.)

Step 2: Establish professional and social connections within the county of domicile

- If using Escapees satellite center in Box Elder, SD, your county would be Pennington County
- Contact professionals, e.g. lawyers, doctors, dentists, accountants, financial planners, and insurance agents, and social and/or religious organizations to begin your relationship with them.
- Make appointments well in advance of your arrival as sometimes these professionals book up quickly.
- Contact an attorney to update estate planning documents in accordance with the laws of South Dakota, or create estate planning documents. The attorney may begin preparing those documents in advance of your arrival.
- Obtain quotes for vehicle and health insurance plans. Please note that quotes from insurance agents typically expire within a few weeks of receiving them, so time this according to your arrival date.

Step 3: Prepare the driver’s license application and vehicle registration

Driver’s License Requirements

- Appear in-person for a photo at the Pennington County Driver Exam Station.
- Surrender previous driver’s license
- Pass a vision screening test
- Provide a certified copy of your birth certificate, valid passport, valid permanent resident card, valid employment authorization document, or unexpired valid U.S. Visa. If your name has changed you will need to provide proof of the name change.
- Provide a non-altered Social Security Card or Medicare card (with complete social security number).
- Bring proof of your residential address:
 - Residency Affidavit
 - Campground/RV park receipt or hotel/motel receipt
 - One document (not more than one year old) proving your personal mailbox (PMB) address. Escapees Mail Service members will receive an email with the South Dakota address.
- Complete details are available at: <https://dps.sd.gov/driver-licensing/required-documents>

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South Dakota Voting Laws

Please be advised! The Pennington County Auditor notified us that no new residents will be allowed to use 316 Villa Drive for voter registration purposes. If you are interested in using Escapees South Dakota as your residential address (domicile) please be aware that you will not be allowed to register to vote using that address. The county auditor assured us that those who are already on the voter rolls will continue to be allowed to vote, but it is our fear that further challenges and voting contests are likely to occur in the future for anyone using a PMB as their residential address for voting purposes in the state of South Dakota.

Vehicle Registration Requirements

- Must be registered within 90 days of arrival in the state
- Complete the Application for Motor Vehicle Title and Registration
<https://dor.sd.gov/individuals/motor-vehicle/>
- Attach the out-of-state title to the application
- If applicable, complete a damage disclosure
<https://dor.sd.gov/individuals/motor-vehicle/>
- For a recreational vehicle, submit the following:
 - Purchase Order, Sales Contract, or Bill of Sale
 - Manufacturers Statement of Origin
- Submit complete application with attached documents to the County Treasurer's Office with the appropriate registration fee.
- Additional Title and License information.
<https://dps.sd.gov/driver-licensing/required-documents>

Step 4: Appearance in the state

- File forms with various state agencies.
- Pay applicable taxes.
- Meet with aforementioned professionals.
- To the extent that is practical, bring your personal possessions, which are not housed in your RV, to your new county of domicile and store them there.

Congratulations - You are now domiciled in South Dakota.

More information and helpful resources at: escapeesmailservice.com/domicile