

# **DOMICILE GUIDE – SOUTH DAKOTA**

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

*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 and 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.***
- Bring proof of your residential address:***
  - Residency Affidavit***
  - Campground/RV park receipt or hotel/motel receipt***
  - One piece of mail confirming South Dakota personal mailbox address. Escapees 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 Mail Service at 936-327-8873.
- 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, voter registration 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 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, vehicle registration and voter registration forms**

#### **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.
- Bring proof of your residential address:
  - Residency Affidavit
  - Campground/RV park receipt or hotel/motel receipt
  - One piece of mail confirming South Dakota personal mailbox 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**

The Pennington County Auditor notified us that no new residents will be allowed to use 316 Villa Drive for voter registration purposes. You will need to provide a “physical address” in addition to your mail-forwarding address. Your physical address can be wherever you stay while fulfilling your 30-day requirement, for example, an RV Park in Pennington County.

If you are interested in using Escapees South Dakota as your residential address (domicile) please be aware that you will no longer be allowed to register to vote using that address alone. The county auditor assured us, however, that those who are already on the voter rolls will continue to be allowed to vote.

## **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:
  - o Purchase Order, Sales Contract, or Bill of Sale
  - o 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.***