

# Youth & Young Adults Legal Issues

## Identity Documents:

Apply for free legal aid online at  
[MontanaLawHelp.org](http://MontanaLawHelp.org) or call/text Kaia,  
YHDP Coordinator, at (406) 594-1971



### Why do I need Identity Documents?

Proper identification proves you are you. You need to be you to access services, earn an education, and gain employment.

It can be nearly impossible to improve your situation or meet your goals without identity documents.

### Birth Certificate: [cdc.gov/nchs/w2w/index.htm](http://cdc.gov/nchs/w2w/index.htm)

If you have a valid, government-issued, photo ID (Driver's License, State ID, Tribal ID, or passport), you can log onto the website listed above to request a copy of your birth certificate. You will have to mail copies of your current proof of ID, along with payment, to the office as instructed. Check their website for alternatives to traditional photo ID. Or, you can go to a local County Clerk and Recorders office to get one printed. Any Clerk and Recorder can print a copy of your birth certificate if you were born in Montana using required ID. An authorized family member with an ID may order the certificate for you. The cost is \$8 - \$12. If you don't have any form of ID and need a Birth Certificate to begin the process to obtain all other forms of ID, contact MLSA's YHDP Coordinator.

### State I.D. Card: [dojmt.gov/driving](http://dojmt.gov/driving)

Most Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) locations now require you to schedule an appointment on their website before coming in. *Note to selfie - they will need to take your picture!*

You must bring with you:

- **Proof of Identity** - must have **2 forms** of ID
  - You must have **1 of these**: birth certificate – passport - record of having a driver's license or ID card from Montana or another state;
  - And **1 of these**: social security card - school ID - certified copy of school records - Medicaid or health insurance card - medical records - documentation from the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services - Tribal ID - and more...
- **Proof of Montana Residency** - **1** of these
  - school records - voter registration card - bank statement - utility bill - and more...

For a full list of acceptable documents, see <https://dojmt.gov/driving/required-docs/>

If you don't have the documentation needed to get your State ID card, contact the YHDP Coordinator.

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**Please contact MLSA for additional information and assistance. To find out how to protect yourself from identity theft (someone pretending to be you) look on: [MontanaLawHelp.org](http://MontanaLawHelp.org)**

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### Social Security Card: [ssa.gov/number-card](http://ssa.gov/number-card)

Documents Required: Birth certificate & State ID *or* driver's license *or* passport (In some cases your birth certificate & signed and dated medical records may be enough).

You can go to a local Social Security Administration Office to fill out a paper application. Or, you can print out a paper copy of the application from the website, fill it out, and then send it by mail. You must make copies of your Evidence Documents and include them with your paper application. You may request your Social Security Card, even if you are under 18 years of age, but you must have the [proper identification documents](#) with you.

Tribal community members may have additional ways of obtaining I.D.s. If you are a tribal member living in a tribal community, call MLSA for advice on your specific situation.

### How can MLSA help me?

MLSA provides FREE legal information, forms, advice, and representation to eligible clients.

MLSA's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) Coordinator can provide you with referrals to agencies in your community and link you with free civil legal assistance.

Have more questions about your legal rights? Visit: [MontanaLawHelp.org](http://MontanaLawHelp.org)

