



Your Phone as ID at the Airport

Through Security Smoothly Digital ID in your phone's wallet and what you still must carry

————— **An Extended Guide · No. 1603** —————

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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THE 60-SECOND VERSION

1. The Whole Idea in One Glance

If you remember only this page, you will still get most of the benefit.

A digital ID is a copy of your driver's license or state ID stored in your phone's Wallet app. At participating airports you can tap it to the TSA reader instead of handing over the plastic card. It is a convenience, not a replacement, so you still carry the real card.

- Add your ID to Apple Wallet on an iPhone or Google Wallet on an Android phone
- Only some states offer it, and only some airports accept it at TSA
- You hold your phone near the reader and confirm with your face or fingerprint; the phone stays in your hand
- You still need the physical card, and a passport for any international trip
- If it does not work, you simply show your real card instead

WATCH OUT

A digital ID is still new and not accepted everywhere. Always carry your physical driver's license or ID card as well. Never rely on the phone alone to get through the airport.

WHAT IT IS

2. What a Digital ID Actually Is

A digital ID, sometimes called a mobile driver's license, is an official copy of your state-issued ID that lives inside your phone's Wallet app. It is not a photo of your card; it is a secure, verified credential that your state has approved and linked to your phone. Think of it like the way your credit card can live in Apple Pay or Google Wallet.

Because it is official and tied to your state, certain readers, including some at TSA checkpoints, can accept it as proof of who you are. It is the same idea as showing the plastic card, just done with a tap of the phone.

GOOD TO KNOW

A simple photo of your license saved in your camera roll is not a digital ID and will not be accepted. The real thing is an official credential added through your phone's Wallet app.

WHY BOTHER

3. Why Anyone Would Use One

You might wonder why to bother when the card in your wallet works fine. The appeal is convenience and a little extra privacy. At a checkpoint that accepts it, you tap your phone instead of digging for your wallet, and the phone only shares the specific information that is asked for, rather than letting someone read your whole card.

For many travelers it is simply one more thing the phone can do. If you already keep your boarding pass on your phone, having your ID there too keeps everything in one place. But it remains an extra, not a necessity.

TIP

Think of a digital ID as a nice convenience to try, not a chore you must take on. If it appeals to you, add it. If it does not, your plastic card works everywhere, as it always has.

REAL ID FIRST

4. The REAL ID Rule Comes First

Before we talk about digital IDs, there is a more important rule to understand: REAL ID. This is a federal standard for driver's licenses and state IDs. To board a domestic flight, the physical ID you show at the airport must be REAL ID compliant, unless you use a passport or another accepted federal ID instead.

A REAL ID has a star in the top corner, usually a gold or black star inside a circle or a cutout of your state. If your license does not have that star, it is not REAL ID compliant, and you will need a passport or to upgrade your license before flying.

WATCH OUT

Look at your license for the star in the upper corner. No star means it is not REAL ID compliant, and you would need a passport to fly within the country. Sort this out well before any trip.

REAL ID STATUS

5. Where the REAL ID Deadline Stands

The REAL ID requirement took effect in May 2025, so it is the rule at airports across the country. At this point, travelers are expected to show a REAL ID compliant license, a passport, or another accepted ID to fly within the United States. Enforcement has been phased in, and travelers without a compliant ID may face extra screening or delays.

The practical upshot is simple: make sure your physical ID is REAL ID compliant, or plan to use your passport. A digital ID does not get you around this rule; it is a separate convenience layered on top of it.

GOOD TO KNOW

If you are unsure whether your license is compliant, the fastest check is the star in the corner. Your state's motor vehicle office can confirm and, if needed, upgrade it for you.

HOW IT DIFFERS

6. Digital ID, REAL ID, and Passport Are Three Things

It is easy to tangle these three up, so here is the plain sorting. REAL ID is a standard your physical license either meets or does not. A passport is a separate federal document, needed for international travel and accepted for domestic flights too. A digital ID is a phone-based copy of your state ID, usable only where it is accepted.

- REAL ID: the star-marked standard your license must meet to fly domestically
- Passport: a federal book or card, required for international trips
- Digital ID: a phone copy of your state ID, a convenience where accepted
- You still carry the physical versions of all of these

TIP

Keep it straight this way: the passport and the REAL ID card are what actually get you on the plane. The digital ID is a bonus tap that sometimes saves you a moment at the checkpoint.

WHICH PHONE

7. Apple Wallet or Google Wallet

Which Wallet you use depends on your phone. On an iPhone, your digital ID goes into the Apple Wallet app, the same place your Apple Pay cards and boarding passes live. On an Android phone, such as a Samsung or a Google Pixel, it goes into the Google Wallet app, which does the same job on that side.

- iPhone: use the Apple Wallet app that comes on the phone
- Android phones: use the Google Wallet app
- Some Samsung phones also support Samsung Wallet
- The app is already on most phones; you do not install anything new

GOOD TO KNOW

The Wallet app is almost certainly already on your phone. It is the same app that holds boarding passes and tap-to-pay cards, so you may have used it without realizing.

WHICH STATES

8. Only Some States Offer It

Here is the big catch: your state has to offer a digital ID before you can add one, and not every state does. A growing list of states participate, and more join over time, but it is far from all fifty. If your state is not on the list, you simply cannot add a digital ID yet, and your plastic card remains your ID.

Because the list changes as states come on board, the only reliable way to know is to check. Open your Wallet app and try to add an ID, or look at Apple's and Google's own support pages, which list the participating states.

WATCH OUT

Do not assume your state offers a digital ID. The list is still partial and keeps changing. Check before you count on it, and never let it replace your physical card.

HOW TO CHECK

9. Checking Whether Your State Participates

The simplest check is to open your Wallet app and try to add an ID. If your state participates, it will walk you through it. If not, it will tell you the feature is not available for your state. Either way you will know in a minute, without guessing.

- 1 Open Apple Wallet or Google Wallet on your phone
- 2 Look for a plus button or an option to add an ID
- 3 Choose to add a driver's license or state ID
- 4 If your state appears, you can proceed; if not, it will say so
- 5 You can also check Apple's or Google's support page for the current state list

GOOD TO KNOW

If your state is not listed today, it may be added over time. It is worth checking again before a future trip, but your physical ID always works in the meantime.

ADDING ON IPHONE

10. Adding Your ID to Apple Wallet

If your state participates and you have an iPhone, adding your ID takes a few minutes. The phone will have you scan your physical license and take a selfie, which your state uses to confirm it is really you. Do this at home, unhurried, well before a trip.

- 1 Open the Apple Wallet app and tap the plus button
- 2 Choose to add a driver's license or state ID
- 3 Select your state
- 4 Scan the front and back of your physical ID as prompted
- 5 Take a selfie and follow the prompts to move your head, then wait for your state to verify

WATCH OUT

Verification can take a little while, sometimes up to a day, as your state checks everything. Add your ID well ahead of a trip, never at the airport, so it is ready when you need it.

ADDING ON ANDROID

11. Adding Your ID to Google Wallet

On an Android phone the steps are very similar, done in the Google Wallet app. You scan your physical ID and take a selfie to prove it is you, and your state verifies it. Some states use their own separate app instead, and the Wallet will point you to it if so.

- 1 Open the Google Wallet app
- 2 Tap to add something, then choose ID
- 3 Select your state and follow the prompts
- 4 Scan your physical ID and take a verification selfie
- 5 Wait for your state to confirm, which may take some time

GOOD TO KNOW

A few states offer their digital ID only through their own state app rather than Google Wallet. If the Wallet sends you to a state app, that is normal; follow its steps the same gentle way.

WHICH AIRPORTS

12. Not Every Airport Accepts It

Even with a digital ID on your phone, you can only use it at TSA checkpoints set up to read it, and not every airport or every lane is. A growing number of airports have the readers, but acceptance is still spreading. At an airport without a reader, you simply show your physical card, which is why you always carry it.

The TSA keeps a list of participating airports on its website, and it grows over time. Before you count on your digital ID, it is wise to glance at that list for the airports on your trip, so you know whether to expect it to work.

WATCH OUT

Acceptance at the airport is still patchy, and a lane that took a digital ID last trip might be closed this time. Treat the digital ID as a nice-if-it-works extra, with your physical card as the real plan.

PRESENTING IT

13. How You Show It at the Checkpoint

Using a digital ID at a checkpoint that accepts it is simple and quick. You do not hand your phone to the officer. Instead you hold your phone near a small reader, and the phone asks you to confirm with your face or fingerprint. You can see exactly what information is being requested before it is shared.

- 1 Tell the officer you have a digital ID, or look for the reader
- 2 Hold your phone near the reader without unlocking it first
- 3 Your phone shows what is being requested and asks you to confirm
- 4 Confirm with Face ID, Touch ID, or your fingerprint
- 5 The phone stays in your hand the whole time

GOOD TO KNOW

You never hand your unlocked phone to anyone. You hold it, you confirm with your face or finger, and only the requested details are shared. That is part of what makes it more private than handing over a card.

PHONE STAYS

14. Your Phone Stays in Your Hand

This point reassures a lot of people, so it is worth its own moment. When you use a digital ID, you keep hold of your phone the entire time. You are not unlocking it and passing it over, and no officer scrolls through it. The reader talks to the Wallet securely, and you approve the share with your face or fingerprint.

TIP

If anyone ever asks you to hand over and unlock your phone to show a digital ID, that is not how it works. The proper way keeps the phone in your hand the whole time.

STILL CARRY

15. What You Still Must Carry

This is the most important page in the guide, so read it twice. A digital ID does not replace anything. You still carry your physical, REAL ID compliant license or state ID for domestic flights. And for any trip outside the country, you carry your passport, because a digital ID is not accepted for international travel or crossing borders.

- Your physical driver's license or state ID, with the REAL ID star
- Your passport for any international trip, no exceptions
- The physical card even when you have the digital one on your phone
- A backup in case your phone dies, is lost, or the reader is down

WATCH OUT

Never travel on the digital ID alone. Phones run out of battery, break, and get lost, and not every checkpoint accepts the digital version. The physical card is your real ticket through.

PASSPORT RULE

16. International Travel Still Means a Passport

For leaving the country, a digital ID does nothing for you. You need your physical passport to board an international flight and to enter another country, and no phone version replaces it. Apple has added a way to carry a copy of a US passport on the phone for some TSA domestic screening, but even that is not a substitute for the real passport book when you travel abroad.

WATCH OUT

A digital ID and any passport copy on your phone are for convenience within the country only. To leave the United States, you must carry your actual passport. There is no digital shortcut around that.

PASSPORT ON PHONE

17. Carrying a Passport Copy on Your Phone

Apple has introduced a feature that lets you add a copy of your US passport to the Wallet, which can be used for identity checks at many domestic TSA checkpoints. It is handy if you ever forget your license but have set this up. Still, it is a digital convenience for domestic screening, not a replacement for the passport book itself.

This feature has been rolling out and may still be limited, so treat it as a backup rather than your main plan. If your state does not offer a digital driver's license, a passport copy on the phone can be another way to use digital identity at some airports.

GOOD TO KNOW

A passport copy on your phone does not let you leave the country. It is strictly for identity checks within the United States, and even then only where it is accepted.

PRIVACY

18. Is a Digital ID Private and Safe?

People reasonably worry about putting their ID on a phone, so here is the plain picture. A digital ID is stored securely in the Wallet and locked behind your phone's face or fingerprint. When you present it, you approve exactly what is shared, and you can see what is being asked for. The officer does not get to browse your phone.

- The ID is locked behind your face or fingerprint
- You see and approve what information is shared each time
- You hold your phone; it is never handed over and unlocked
- In some cases you can share only certain details, not the whole card

GOOD TO KNOW

In some settings a digital ID can share just what is needed, such as proving you are old enough to buy something without showing your home address. That selective sharing is one of its quiet privacy benefits.

LOCKED PHONE

19. Keeping Your Phone Locked and Protected

Since your digital ID lives on your phone, a secure phone is what protects it. Use a passcode and the face or fingerprint lock, so that even if your phone is lost or stolen, no one can open the Wallet or use your ID. This is the same protection that guards your tap-to-pay cards.

TIP

A strong passcode and the face or fingerprint lock are the whole protection. If you have not set those up, that is worth doing before you add an ID, and I am glad to help.

IF PHONE IS LOST

20. What Happens If You Lose Your Phone

If your phone with a digital ID is lost or stolen, your ID is not exposed, because it is locked behind your passcode and your face or fingerprint. You can also use Find My on an iPhone, or the equivalent on Android, to lock or erase the phone from afar. And because you still carry the physical card, you are not stuck without an ID.

GOOD TO KNOW

A lost phone is a hassle, but your digital ID being on it is not an extra danger. It stays locked, you can erase the phone remotely, and your plastic card still gets you home.

IF IT FAILS

21. What to Do If the Digital ID Does Not Work

Sometimes the reader is down, the lane does not accept digital IDs, or your phone is low on battery. None of this is a problem if you are prepared, because the fix is always the same: show your physical card. The officers handle physical IDs all day long, and that is still the normal way through.

- 1 Do not panic; this is common and easily handled
- 2 Reach for your physical ID card instead
- 3 Hand the officer your plastic license or ID as usual
- 4 Mention your digital ID only if they ask; the card is enough
- 5 Carry on to your gate

TIP

Have your physical card easy to reach, not buried, so if the digital ID does not work you switch to it without fuss. A smooth fallback keeps the line moving and your nerves calm.

BATTERY

22. Keep Your Phone Charged at the Airport

A digital ID needs a phone with enough battery to wake up and confirm. On a long travel day, a dead phone means no digital ID, no mobile boarding pass, and no way to reach family. Keeping your phone charged is a small habit that matters on travel days more than most.

TIP

Carry a small power bank on travel days and top up your phone before you reach security. A charged phone keeps your boarding pass, your digital ID, and your family calls all working.

BOARDING PASS

23. Your Digital ID and Your Boarding Pass

Many travelers already keep their boarding pass on their phone, in the airline app or the Wallet. A digital ID sits in the same Wallet, so at a checkpoint that accepts both, you can handle your ID and your boarding pass from one place. It is a tidy way to keep your travel documents together.

Just remember the same rule applies: keep a backup. A printed boarding pass and your physical ID in your pocket mean a dead or lost phone never strands you at the checkpoint.

GOOD TO KNOW

Keeping the boarding pass and digital ID in one Wallet is convenient, but a paper boarding pass and your plastic ID are the reliable backup worth carrying too.

BEYOND AIRPORTS

24. Where Else a Digital ID Might Work

Airports are the headline use, but a digital ID can work in other spots too, as more businesses and agencies set up to read it. Some stores, some age-check situations, and some government offices accept it. This is still spreading, so it varies widely by place and by state.

GOOD TO KNOW

Outside the airport, acceptance is even spottier than at TSA. Enjoy it as a bonus where it works, and keep your physical card for everywhere it does not, which is still most places.

MULTIPLE DEVICES

25. Adding Your ID to a Watch Too

If you wear an Apple Watch, you can often add your digital ID there as well, so you can tap your wrist at a reader instead of reaching for your phone. It uses the same Wallet setup. This is a small convenience for people who like to travel with the phone tucked away.

GOOD TO KNOW

Adding the ID to a watch is optional and not necessary. The phone does the same job. Only bother if you already use the watch for boarding passes and payments and like that flow.

KEEPING IT CURRENT

26. Keeping Your Digital ID Up to Date

When you renew your license or get a new card, your digital ID may need updating or re-adding, since it is tied to your physical card. If your address or name changes, update the physical ID first, then refresh the digital one. Keeping them matched avoids any confusion at a checkpoint.

GOOD TO KNOW

The digital ID follows your real ID. Whenever your physical card changes, take a moment to update the phone version so the two always agree.

COMMON WORRIES

27. The Questions Travelers Ask Me Most

A handful of concerns come up every time I set up a digital ID for someone, and the answers put most minds at ease.

- Can I leave my wallet at home? No, always carry the physical card
- Does an officer take my phone? No, it stays in your hand
- Does it work for flights abroad? No, you still need your passport
- What if the reader is broken? You just show your plastic card

GOOD TO KNOW

Nearly every worry about digital IDs is answered by one habit: keep carrying your physical card and passport. With those in your pocket, the digital ID can only ever help, never hurt.

MISTAKES TO AVOID

28. A Few Easy Slip-Ups to Sidestep

A couple of avoidable mistakes cause nearly all the trouble people have with digital IDs. Knowing them keeps your trip smooth.

- Leaving the physical card at home, trusting the phone alone
- Trying to add the ID at the airport, with no time for verification
- Thinking a camera-roll photo of your license counts as a digital ID
- Assuming every airport and lane accepts it
- Expecting it to work for international travel

WATCH OUT

The single biggest mistake is leaving the plastic card behind. A digital ID is an extra, never a replacement. Carry both, every time, and nothing can go wrong.

IS IT WORTH IT

29. Is a Digital ID Worth Setting Up?

Whether to bother is a fair question. If your state offers it and you fly from airports that accept it, a digital ID is a pleasant convenience and a small privacy gain. If your state does not offer it, or you rarely fly, there is no harm in skipping it entirely. Your physical card has worked for decades and still does.

TIP

There is no wrong choice here. Set it up if it appeals to you, and ignore it if it does not. Either way, keep carrying your physical ID and you are fully covered.

HELPING A SPOUSE

30. Setting It Up for a Less Techy Spouse

In many households one person is comfortable with the phone and the other would rather not fuss. A digital ID is a gentle thing to set up together, because once it is added, using it is just a tap and a glance. Walk through it once at the kitchen table and it becomes familiar.

GOOD TO KNOW

Keep it to the one task that matters: hold the phone near the reader, confirm with your face or finger. There is no need to learn anything else to get the benefit.

AT THE CHECKPOINT

31. A Calm Walk-Through of the Checkpoint

Let us picture the whole thing calmly from start to finish, so there are no surprises. You reach the ID check with your phone in one hand and your physical card easy to reach in the other pocket. If the lane has a reader and accepts digital IDs, you tap and confirm. If not, you show the card. Either way takes seconds.

- 1 Have your phone ready and your physical card within reach
- 2 At the ID check, look for a reader or ask the officer
- 3 Tap your phone and confirm with your face or finger if accepted
- 4 If not accepted, simply hand over your physical card
- 5 Proceed to the screening line as usual

WATCH OUT

Having both ready means you are never caught out. Whichever the checkpoint wants, you have it in hand, and the line keeps moving.

A TRIP ROUTINE

32. A Gentle Routine for Every Trip

The travelers who find digital IDs easy build a small routine around them. It is almost no effort once it becomes a habit, and it guarantees you are never stuck.

Before the trip, confirm your physical ID is REAL ID compliant or pack your passport. Make sure your digital ID is added and your phone is charged. At the airport, keep both the phone and the physical card within reach. That is the whole routine, and it means the checkpoint is never a worry.

- Before you go: confirm the star on your license or pack your passport
- Confirm your digital ID is added and verified
- Charge your phone and bring a power bank
- At security: keep both phone and physical card handy

GOOD TO KNOW

Once this is second nature, the ID check becomes the easiest part of the airport. You simply present whatever the lane accepts and move on.

YOUR CHECKLIST

33. Your Pre-Trip Digital ID Checklist

Run through this before you travel and you are set.

- Physical ID is REAL ID compliant, with the star, or you have a passport
- Passport packed for any international trip
- Digital ID added and verified, if your state offers it
- Phone charged, with a power bank in the bag
- Physical card easy to reach at the checkpoint
- You know the digital ID is a bonus, not a replacement

WATCH OUT

Add the digital ID at home days ahead, never at the airport, because verification takes time. A calm setup at the kitchen table is all it takes.

KEEPING IT SIMPLE

34. The One Thing to Remember

If all of this feels like a lot, hold on to one simple idea. The digital ID is a convenience that sometimes saves you a moment at the airport. Your physical, REAL ID compliant card, and your passport for trips abroad, are what truly get you where you are going. Carry those, and the digital ID can only help.

TIP

Carry your real card and passport, always. Add the digital ID if you like it. That one habit keeps every trip smooth, no matter what the checkpoint accepts.

CHECK THE STAR

35. How to Read the Star on Your License

Since a REAL ID compliant physical card is what truly matters, let us make the check dead simple. Take out your license and look at the top, usually the upper right corner. A compliant card has a star, often gold or black, sometimes set inside a circle or a shape of your state. If you see the star, your card is REAL ID compliant.

- Look at the top corner of your license for a star
- The star may be gold or black, plain or inside a shape
- A star means it is REAL ID compliant and good for flights

- No star means you need a passport or an upgraded card to fly

TIP

Check this for every traveler in your party well before a trip, including a spouse. One person's missing star can hold up the whole group at the airport.

UPGRADING

36. Getting a REAL ID If You Need One

If your license has no star, you can upgrade it at your state's motor vehicle office, but it takes a visit and some documents, so do not leave it to the last minute. You typically bring proof of identity, your Social Security number, and two proofs of your address. Your state's website lists exactly what to bring.

WATCH OUT

Upgrading to a REAL ID can take time, and the new card may arrive by mail days later. Start the process weeks before any flight, or plan to travel on your passport instead.

A PASSPORT CARD

37. The Passport Card as Another Option

There is also a wallet-sized passport card, separate from the passport book, that works as a federal ID for domestic flights and for land and sea travel to a few nearby countries. It does not work for international flights, but some travelers like it as a backup ID that fits in a wallet. It is a physical card, not a digital one.

GOOD TO KNOW

A passport card is handy as a backup federal ID for flying within the country, but for any international flight you still need the full passport book.

TSA PRECHECK

38. How a Digital ID Fits With PreCheck

If you have TSA PreCheck, which lets you use a faster screening lane, a digital ID can work alongside it at airports set up for both. The two are separate things: PreCheck speeds your screening, while the digital ID is how you prove who you are. Having both can make a checkpoint quicker, but you still carry your physical card.

GOOD TO KNOW

PreCheck and a digital ID are a nice pairing where both are supported, but neither replaces carrying your physical, REAL ID compliant card through the airport.

FAMILY AND KIDS

39. Digital IDs for a Traveling Family

In a family, each adult sets up their own digital ID on their own phone, since it is tied to that person's identity and face. You cannot carry a spouse's digital ID on your phone. Children under the age for an ID do not need one to fly domestically, though every adult does need an acceptable ID.

TIP

If you travel as a couple, set up each of your digital IDs on your own phones in one sitting at home. Then confirm you both still carry your physical cards, which remain the real requirement.

NO SMARTPHONE

40. What If You Prefer Not to Use the Phone

If you would rather not put your ID on your phone, or you carry a basic phone that cannot do it, that is completely fine. The digital ID is entirely optional. Your physical, REAL ID compliant card and your passport have always been the standard way through the airport and remain so. You lose nothing by skipping the digital version.

GOOD TO KNOW

Nobody is required to have a digital ID. It is a convenience for those who want it. The plastic card in your wallet is the dependable, universal way to get on your flight.

HELP AT SECURITY

41. Asking the Officers for Help

If you reach the checkpoint unsure whether to use your digital ID or your card, just ask the officer. They do this all day and will tell you plainly whether the lane accepts a digital ID. There is no need to feel flustered; a simple question sorts it out, and your physical card is always the safe fallback.

TIP

A calm question like Does this lane take a phone ID? gets you a clear answer in a second. When in doubt, reach for your physical card, which every lane accepts.

CHANGING STATES

42. If You Move or Carry an Out-of-State ID

Your digital ID is tied to the state that issued your physical card, so it works only while that card is valid and that state takes part. If you move and get a new license in a different state, you add a fresh digital ID for the new state, assuming it participates. An old digital ID from a state you have left will not keep working once that license is replaced.

If you winter in a warmer state but keep your home-state license, that is fine; your digital ID follows your license, not where you happen to be staying. The important thing is that your physical card and your digital ID always match the same valid license.

GOOD TO KNOW

Whenever your physical license changes, from a move, a renewal, or a new address, add the digital ID again so the two always agree. A mismatch is the sort of thing that slows you down at a checkpoint.

WHAT IT IS NOT

43. A Few Things a Digital ID Is Not

It helps to be clear about the limits so nothing catches you off guard. A digital ID is not a passport and will not get you out of the country. It is not accepted at every airport or every lane. And it is not a reason to leave your physical card at home. Keeping these limits in mind keeps your travels smooth.

- Not a passport and not valid for international travel
- Not accepted at every airport or in every lane
- Not a replacement for your physical card
- Not useful if your phone is dead or lost, so carry the card

WATCH OUT

Treat the digital ID as a helpful extra with real limits. The moment you think of it as a full replacement for the plastic card, you set yourself up for trouble at the gate.

WHEN TO CALL

44. When It Is Worth Calling Me

Adding a digital ID is a few minutes' work, but if your state's steps are confusing, if the verification selfie will not go through, or if you would simply rather have someone sit beside you and walk through it, that is exactly what I am here for. I can also help you check whether your license is REAL ID compliant and get your phone's lock and Wallet set up safely. My first in-home visit is a flat \$99, and a remote screen-share session is \$49.

TIP

Let me set up your digital ID, confirm your card is REAL ID compliant, and show you how to present it at the checkpoint, so you leave for your trip with one less thing to puzzle over. Call (330) 200-8042 or ask Sophie, our phone and chat helper, to book a time.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this page handy for your trip. It is the short answer to the questions travelers ask most about using your phone as ID at the airport.

- A digital ID is an official copy of your state ID in your phone's Wallet
- Add it in Apple Wallet on an iPhone or Google Wallet on an Android phone
- Only some states offer it, and only some airports accept it at TSA
- You hold your phone near the reader and confirm with your face or finger; it stays in your hand
- Always carry your physical, REAL ID compliant card too
- Look for the star on your license, or plan to use a passport
- For international trips, you must carry your actual passport
- If the reader is down or your state is not supported, show your plastic card
- Add it at home days ahead, since verification takes time; keep the phone charged
- Get help: call Bill at (330) 200-8042

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

Three Kinds of ID, Kept Straight

What each one is and when you need it.

REAL ID

Star-marked license
Needed to fly in US
Or use a passport

Passport

Federal document
Required for abroad
No digital substitute

Digital ID

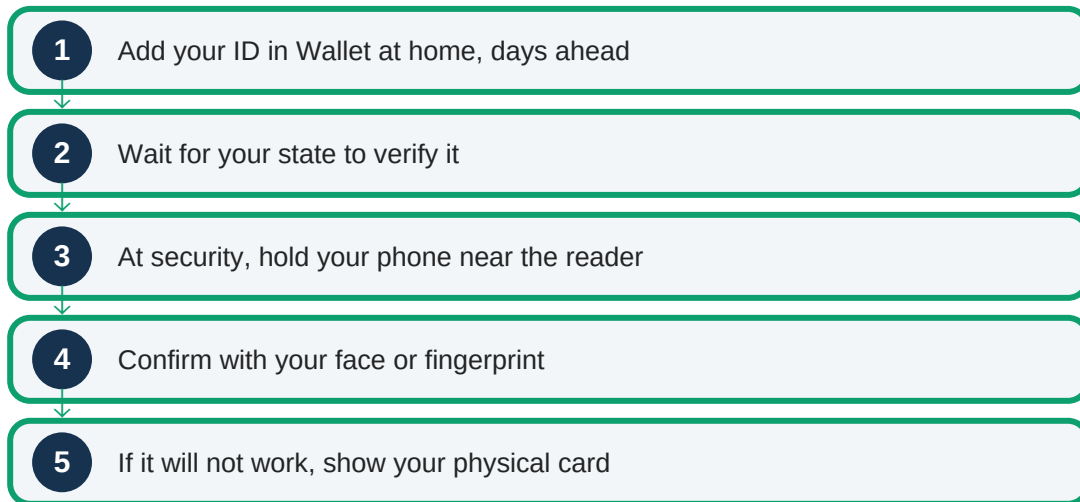
Copy in your Wallet
A convenience where
accepted
Never travel on it alone

AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

Using a Digital ID at Security

Set it up at home, present it with a tap.



BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.



HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

In-home visit — \$99 flat for your first visit. No contracts and no surprise charges, and a 30-day follow-up is included.

Remote Support — \$49 for a screen-share session. I only connect with your permission, you watch the whole time, and you can end anytime. If I can't fix it over the screen-share, I refund the \$49 — and if it turns out you need me in person, that \$49 goes toward your visit. It's included free for Support Plan members (\$39/mo).

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full \$99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

Call or text **(330) 200-8042** · Book a visit: **billshometech.com/book** · **bill@billshometech.com**

This free guide is for general information only — not professional advice, and no substitute for your device's own manual. Any prices or outside products mentioned can change; please confirm current details before you buy. Please use your own good judgment and follow it at your own risk — for anything involving electricity, gas, water, or heights, stop and call a licensed professional. Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results. © 2026 Bill's Home Tech, LLC.