

Registration under the *Indian Act* and applying for a status card, what's the difference?

Registration under the *Indian Act* is not the same as applying for a status card. This infographic helps explain the differences.

Registration



What is it?

Your legal status as a person registered under the *Indian Act*.



How long does it take?

It usually takes less than 6 months to process a complete application for registration under the *Indian Act*. However, in some cases, it may take up to 2 years or more.



How do you register?

You can apply for registration **by mail or in person** at any **regional office**, or through a **trusted source** or your **First Nations office** if they offer registration services.



Does it need to be renewed?

No. Registration doesn't need to be renewed.



What are the benefits?

If you become registered, you may be entitled to a range of rights and benefits.



Is there a fee?

There's no fee to apply for registration, but there may be a fee for some required documents, for example, a proof of birth document.

Status card



What is it?

A government-issued identity document that confirms you're registered under the *Indian Act*. There are 2 versions: the Secure Certificate of Indian Status, or secure status card, and the Certificate of Indian Status, or status card.



How long does it take?

Once you are registered under the *Indian Act*, it usually takes from 8 to 12 weeks to process a complete application for a secure status card.



How do you apply?

You can apply for a secure status card **by mail or in person** at any **regional office**, or through a **trusted source** or your **First Nations office** if they offer secure status card services. Some First Nations issue the **Certificate of Indian status**. Contact your First Nations office to apply for one.



Does it need to be renewed?

Yes. A secure status card needs to be renewed every 10 years for adults and dependent adults and every 5 years for children. A status card needs to be renewed every 5 years for adults and dependent adults and every 3 years for children.



What are the benefits?

Both cards are acceptable forms of government-issued photo identification and can be used to access rights and benefits.



Is there a fee?

There's no fee to apply for a secure status card, but there may be a fee for some required documents. You can submit your photo for free using the **SCIS Photo App**.

Find out more: canada.ca/indian-status

