



PHOENIX
IDENTIFICATION
LANGUAGE

PHOENIX

LOS ANGELES

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BANKING AND FINANCE

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This chapter covers banking in the USA. You will find useful information on what you will need to do, and what documents you will need to provide in order to open a bank account in the USA.

How do I open a bank account in the USA?

When opening a bank account, you need 2 forms of ID, for example, passport with a valid work or residency visa or Green Card, driver's licence, credit cards etc (at least one has to be picture ID).

- You will need proof of address - utility bills in your name or a lease/rent receipt
- You will probably be asked for your social security number. If you have not received your social security number you can show the receipt from when you made the application
- Banking hours are normally Monday to Friday 9am-3pm. Some banks may open on a Saturday
- Try to choose a bank near your place of work
- If taking a large amount of money with you remember it can take some weeks before a bank draft is cleared so make sure you have access to funds to cover immediate expenses

- For safety if possible carry a credit card or travellers' cheques and a small amount of cash
- It takes 9-12 months to acquire a credit rating in the USA after which you can apply for a credit card
- In the meantime you can use a credit card obtained in Ireland, as most are acceptable in the US.

What are the ways of transferring funds from the USA to Ireland?

Money transfer between USA and Ireland

If you have a USA bank account you may be able to transfer money electronically from your Irish account to a nominated account in the USA. You should check this with your bank to see if they offer this facility and check the cost of doing this.

If you do not have a bank account and want to transfer money you can do so through Western Union Financial Services www.westernunion.com or Money Gram www.moneygram.com. Be aware that fees will apply.

Money Orders from the Post Office cannot be used outside the USA.