

Teen Driving Laws

Graduated Driver Licensing Program

CURRENT LAW

- **Permit Phase Drivers 15 Years Old**
 - Parent/Legal Guardian Consent Required

- **Learner's Permit Stage**
 - Permit must be held for a minimum of 9 months
 - Permit is valid for up to 2 years
 - Must not acquire any driving convictions during the 9 month permit phase

- **Supervised Driving During Learner's Permit Stage**
 - Must practice driving a minimum of 50 hours, including 10 hours at night, supervised by a parent or adult 21 years or older with a valid driver's license

- **Curfew for Driver's Under 18 Years Old**
 - A nighttime driving restriction is in place Sunday-Thursday 10 PM – 6 AM & Friday-Saturday 11 PM-6 AM

- **Initial Licensing Phase**
 - Lasts until driver is 18 years old

- **Passenger Restrictions**
 - All occupants under the age of 19 years old must wear safety belts
 - For the first 12 months of licensing, or until the driver turns 18 years old (whichever occurs first), the number of passengers is limited to 1 person under the age of 20 years old, unless the passenger is a sibling, stepsibling, child, or stepchild of the driver
 - After the first 12 months of licensing, the number of passengers is limited to 1 in the front seat and the number of safety belts in the back seat

- **Required Driving Instruction in Public Schools**
 - Must be enrolled in an approved driver education course and must pass vision & written tests
 - Complete at least 30 hours of classroom instruction and 6 hours of behind-the-wheel training on actual streets

- **Keeping a Clean Record**
 - Age 15: must not acquire any driving convictions during the 9 month permit phase
 - Ages 15 – 17: limit of 1 court supervision for serious driving offenses. To obtain court supervision, driver must appear in person before the presiding court with a parent or legal guardian and must also attend traffic safety school.
 - Ages 16 - 17: year olds must maintain a conviction-free driving record for 6 months prior to turning 18 years old before moving to the Full Licensing Phase. A traffic conviction during the initial licensing phase may extend restrictions beyond 18 years old
 - The parents/legal guardian of a person under 18 years old who holds an instruction permit or graduated driver's license may access the minor's driving record free online
 - Ages 16 - 17: conviction of any moving violation before age 18 generates a Secretary of State warning letter to the parent & teenager
 - Two moving convictions occurring within a 24-month period results in a minimum 1-month driver's license suspension.

- Any moving violation conviction that occurs within the 1st year of licensure will result in a 6 month extension of the passenger limitation, which allows no more than 1 unrelated passenger under age 20
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- **When Teenagers Receive Traffic Violations**

- To obtain court supervision, driver must appear in person before the presiding court with a parent or legal guardian and must also attend traffic safety school
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- **Street Racing**

- Driving privileges will be revoked for any person convicted of street racing & law enforcement may impound the vehicle for up to five days
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- **Cell Phone Usage**

- Cell phone use while driving is prohibited for drivers under the age of 19 years old, except in emergencies to contact a law enforcement agency, health care provider, or an emergency services agency