

Learning how to be a good driver takes time. Along with the involvement of parents, Illinois' Graduated Driver Licensing Program will help teens gain the experience they need for a lifetime of safe, responsible driving.



Since implementation of new GDL provisions in 2008, teen driving deaths in the state have decreased by more than 50 percent. As a result, Illinois' GDL program has been lauded by traffic safety organizations across the country and remains a national model for teen driver safety.

New laws effective in 2013 and 2014 continue to strengthen Illinois' GDL program and make our roads safer for everyone. Included is a measure that denies issuance of a driver's license for a person under age 18 who has any unresolved traffic citations. "Kelsey's Law" was initiated after a young driver on a learner's permit struck and severely injured a teenager walking alongside a country road and then received a driver's license just days after the incident. Another law effective July 1, 2014, will require persons age 18-21 who did not take driver education in high school to complete an adult driver education course before obtaining an Illinois driver's license.

For more information on Illinois' Graduated Driver Licensing Program, please visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

Jesse White

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Secretary of State

PARENTAL ACCESS TO TEEN'S DRIVING RECORD

The parent/legal guardian of a person under age 18 who holds an instruction permit or graduated driver's license may access the minor's driving record free online.

WWW.CYBERDRIVEILLINOIS.COM

NEW DRIVING LAWS

- **Cellphone ban** — Cellphone/wireless use while driving, including a hands-free device, is prohibited for drivers under age 19, except in the case of an emergency to contact a law enforcement agency, health-care provider or emergency services agency.

Effective Jan. 1, 2014, cellphone/wireless use by drivers 19 and over is prohibited unless using a hands-free device.

- **"Kelsey's Law"** — A person under age 18 who has any unresolved traffic citations may be denied issuance of a driver's license.
- **Adult driver education** — Effective July 1, 2014, a person age 18-21 who did not take a driver education course in high school must successfully complete a six-hour adult driver education course before obtaining a driver's license.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

- The Secretary of State provides a Parent-Teen Driving Guide and Contract at www.cyberdriveillinois.com that establishes practice driving tips, parameters and boundaries between parents and teens to enable young drivers to acquire safe driving habits and skills.
- A parent/legal guardian must provide written consent at the time a minor applies for a driver's license at a Driver Services facility. The parent/legal guardian also must verify that the teen driver has completed at least 50 hours of practice driving, including 10 hours at night.
- A parent/legal guardian may withdraw consent for the minor to hold a driver's license at any time, for any reason, until the driver turns 18 by contacting the Secretary of State's office. Driving privileges will not be reinstated until the parent/legal guardian again provides consent or until the driver turns 18. The teen driver must reapply for a driver's license, retake all applicable tests and pay the appropriate fees.

For more information:
312-814-2905 • 217-782-2952
888-261-5238 (TTY/NexTalk)



GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING PROGRAM



JESSE WHITE
SECRETARY OF STATE

GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING PROGRAM

PERMIT PHASE — DRIVERS AGE 15

- Parent/legal guardian consent required to obtain an instruction permit.
- Must be enrolled in an approved driver education course, and must pass vision and written tests.
- Nighttime driving restrictions — Sun.-Thurs., 10 p.m.-6 a.m.; Fri.-Sat., 11 p.m.-6 a.m. (local curfews may differ).
- Permit must be held for a minimum of nine months.
- Must practice driving a minimum of 50 hours, including 10 hours at night, supervised by a parent or adult age 21 or older with a valid driver's license.
- Must not acquire any driving convictions during the nine-month permit phase.
- Number of passengers limited to one in the front seat and the number of safety belts in the back seat.
- All occupants must wear safety belts.
- Cellphone/wireless use while driving, including a hands-free device, is prohibited for drivers under age 19, except in the case of an emergency.
- Texting while driving is prohibited.
- Permit is valid for up to two years.

Sanctions

- To obtain court supervision for a traffic violation, a driver must appear in court with a parent/legal guardian and also must attend traffic safety school. Limit one court supervision for serious driving offenses.
- A moving violation conviction results in a nine-month waiting period before applying for a driver's license.
- Not eligible for any hardship permit.
- Anyone caught driving without a permit is ineligible to obtain a driver's license until age 18.
- A person under age 18 who has any unresolved traffic citations may be denied issuance of a driver's license.

INITIAL LICENSING PHASE — DRIVERS AGES 16-17

- Parent/legal guardian must certify that a minimum of 50 hours of practice driving, including 10 hours at night, has been completed.
- Parent/legal guardian must accompany teen to provide

written consent to obtain a driver's license, OR complete and notarize an Affidavit/Consent for Minor to Drive form.

- Must have completed a state-approved driver education course.
- Nighttime driving restrictions — Sun.-Thurs., 10 p.m.-6 a.m.; Fri.-Sat., 11 p.m.-6 a.m. (local curfews may differ).
- Must maintain a conviction-free driving record for six months prior to turning 18 before moving to the Full Licensing Phase. A traffic conviction during the Initial Licensing Phase may extend restrictions beyond age 18.
- All occupants must wear safety belts.
- For the first 12 months of licensing, or until the driver turns 18, whichever occurs first, the number of passengers is limited to one person under age 20, unless the passenger(s) is a sibling, stepsibling, child or stepchild of the driver. After this period, the number of passengers is limited to one in the front seat and the number of safety belts in the back seat.
- Cellphone/wireless use while driving, including a hands-free device, is prohibited for drivers under age 19, except in the case of an emergency.
- Texting while driving is prohibited.

Sanctions

- To obtain court supervision for a traffic violation, a driver must appear in court with a parent/legal guardian and also must attend traffic safety school. Limit one court supervision for serious driving offenses.
- A moving violation conviction before age 18 generates a Secretary of State warning letter to the parent and teenager.
- A moving violation conviction that occurs within the first year of licensing will result in a six-month extension of the passenger limitation, which allows only one unrelated passenger under age 20.
- Two moving violation convictions occurring within a 24-month period results in a minimum one-month driver's license suspension. Suspension length is determined by the seriousness of the offenses and the driver's prior driving history. An additional driver's license suspension will result for each subsequent moving violation following the initial suspension.

- Suspended drivers must attend a remedial education course, may be retested and must pay a \$70 reinstatement fee.
- A person under age 18 who has any unresolved traffic citations may be denied issuance of a driver's license.

FULL LICENSING PHASE — DRIVERS AGES 18-20

- No age-related restrictions apply except in cases where a driver fails to move from the Initial Licensing Phase to the Full Licensing Phase.
- Cellphone/wireless use while driving, including a hands-free device, is prohibited for drivers under age 19, except in the case of an emergency.
- All occupants must wear safety belts.
- Texting while driving is prohibited.
- **Effective July 1, 2014**, a person age 18-21 who did not take a driver education course in high school must successfully complete a six-hour adult driver education course before obtaining a driver's license.

Sanctions

- Limit one court supervision for serious driving offenses.
- Two moving violation convictions occurring within a 24-month period results in a minimum one-month driver's license suspension. Suspension length is determined by the seriousness of the offenses and the driver's prior driving history. An additional driver's license suspension will result for each subsequent moving violation following the initial suspension.
- Suspended drivers are required to pay a \$70 reinstatement fee.