

What are GDL Programs?

Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) programs are designed to minimize the highest risk situations for a new driver while they safely gain crucial experience behind the wheel. GDL programs introduce young drivers to the road slowly with a gradual, staged approach to earning a driver license.

GDL LAWS SAVE LIVES

Car crashes are the number one killer of teens, taking almost 3,000 young lives annually. These crashes are not just sad accidents—they are preventable crashes.

Since the inception of GDL laws, teen fatalities and serious injuries have been reduced by up to 40%.

50% of teens killed in car crashes were passengers driven by another teen

THREE STAGES OF THE GDL LAW:

- 1 Learner's Permit
- 2 Provisional License
- 3 Full Driver's License

It's simple. Read on to understand the different licensing stages and guidelines.

WHAT CAN TEENS, PARENTS, AND GUARDIANS DO?

By understanding, following, and enforcing GDL laws, teens, parents, and guardians can minimize the risk of a car crash and keep the roads safer for everyone.



Visit ImpactTeenDrivers.org/Maryland for more information and to take the online Parent-Teen GDL Module.

Understanding GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING LAWS

Maryland



Impact
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STAGE 1

LEARNER'S PERMIT

The Learner's Permit stage is the time to gain driving experience.

This stage can begin at age 15 and 9 months. Teens must first complete 30 hours of classroom instruction from a licensed and certified driving school.

Once a teen has studied the state's Driver Handbook, they should head to the MVA to take the written driver exam. Once they pass the exam, they become the proud holder of a Learner's Permit.

Teens need a minimum of 60 hours of behind-the-wheel supervised driving time with a licensed parent or guardian (who is at least 21 years old and has held a valid license for at least 3 years). Ten of those hours must be at night and an additional six hours must be with a driving instructor. They will hold their Instruction Permit for a minimum of nine months before taking the MVA driving test for a Provisional License.

STAGE 2

PROVISIONAL LICENSE

Once a teen passes the behind-the-wheel driving test at the MVA, they will receive their Provisional License.

A Provisional License allows the teen driver to drive ALONE. However, they must follow these driving restrictions while in the Provisional License stage:

- No *non-immediate family member passengers under 18* for the first 151 days (unless accompanied by a licensed driver over 21 with at least 3 years of experience)
- No driving between 12 a.m. and 5 a.m.
- Seat belts are mandatory for all people in the car
- No electronic device use while driving, hands-free or not

Teens will have a Provisional License for 18 months or until they turn 18, whichever comes first.



STAGE 3

FULL DRIVER LICENSE

After 18 months of safe driving or when a teen turns 18, the *passenger, nighttime, and electronic device restrictions* are lifted. Remember, hands-free is not distraction-free. Seat belts remain mandatory for all occupants of a vehicle under Maryland law.

With full driver license privileges, teens can participate in all of the privileges, responsibilities, and enjoyments that come with driving. But remember, driving is a privilege, not a right, and it is important to drive safely at all times no matter age or experience.

Congrats!

