

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's 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 Intermediate 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/Connecticut for more information.

Understanding GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING LAWS

Connecticut



Impact
Teen Drivers

NJM Insurance Group



STAGE 1

LEARNER'S PERMIT

The Learner's Permit stage is the time to gain driving experience. This stage can begin at age 16. Teens will first need to study the Connecticut Driver's Handbook. Next, teens can visit a Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Office to take an eye exam and complete the written permit test. By passing both tests, they become the proud holder of a Learner's Permit.

After earning a Learner's Permit, teens will need to complete 30 hours of classroom training, or 22 hours of classroom-type home instruction and a eight-hour Safe Driving Practices class at a commercial driving school or secondary school. All parents/guardians must complete a two hour course. Teens will need a minimum of 40 hours of behind-the-wheel supervised driving time with a parent, guardian, or licensed driver over the age of 20 who has held their license for four consecutive years.

Teens who complete classroom training will hold their permit for at least four months. Teens who complete home instruction and the required Safe Driving Practices course will hold their permit for at least six months. Once the minimum time period has passed, they can take the behind-the-wheel driving test.

STAGE 2

INTERMEDIATE LICENSE

Once a teen takes the behind-the-wheel test, they will receive their Intermediate License.

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

- For the first six months of driving, no passengers UNLESS accompanied by a licensed driver over 20
- For the second six months, no non-immediate family member passengers under the age of 20 UNLESS accompanied by a licensed driver over the age of 20
- No driving between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.*
- No cell phone use, even with a hands-free device
- Seat belts are mandatory for all people in the car

*With exceptions noted in the state law.



STAGE 3

FULL DRIVER'S LICENSE

After a year of safe driving, or when a teen turns 18, the passenger restrictions are lifted. When a teen turns 18, all other restrictions are lifted. Remember, hands-free is not distraction-free. Seat belts remain mandatory for all occupants of a vehicle under Connecticut law.

With a full driver's license, 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.

