

# 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 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 Probationary License
- 3 Full Driver 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/Indiana](https://ImpactTeenDrivers.org/Indiana) for more information and to access additional resources.



# Understanding GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING LAWS

Indiana



**Impact**  
Teen Drivers



STAGE 2

## PROBATIONARY LICENSE

Once a teen passes the driving skills test, they will receive their Probationary License. A Probationary License allows the teen driver to drive alone. However, they must follow these driving restrictions while in the Probationary License stage:

- First 180 days: No passengers, unless they are immediate family members or you are accompanied by a licensed adult who is at least 25 years old\*
- First 180 days: No driving between 10pm and 5am\*
- After 180 days with a license, but until 18 years old, no driving:\*
  - Saturday and Sunday, 1am-5am
  - Sunday through Thursday, after 11pm
  - Monday through Friday, before 5am
- No use of a wireless communications device while driving, hands-free or not
- Seat belts are mandatory for all people in the car

\*With exceptions noted in the state law.



STAGE 3

## FULL DRIVER LICENSE

After 180 days of safe driving, the passenger restriction is lifted. Once a teen turns 18 years of age, the nighttime restriction is lifted. The electronic device restriction remains in effect until they turn 21 years old. Remember, hands-free is not distraction-free. Seat belts remain mandatory for all occupants of a vehicle under Indiana 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!



STAGE 1

## LEARNER'S PERMIT

The Learner's Permit stage is the time to gain driving experience. This stage can begin at age 15. Teens must enroll in an approved driver education training program and obtain a certificate of enrollment to bring to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). If a teen chooses not to participate in a driver education course, they must wait until they are 16 years old to begin this stage.

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

All teens need a minimum of 50 hours of behind-the-wheel supervised driving time with a driving instructor or licensed relative who is at least 25 years of age. Ten of those hours must be at night. They will hold their Learner's Permit for a minimum of 180 days before taking the BMV driving test for a Probationary License. To receive a license, a teen who completed Driver Education must be at least 16 years 90 days old, and a teen who did not complete Driver Education must be at least 16 years 270 days old.