

# 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 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 PROGRAM:

- 1 Learner's License
- 2 Driver License with Restrictions
- 3 Full Driver License

It's simple. Read on to understand the different GDL Program 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/Florida](http://ImpactTeenDrivers.org/Florida) for more information.



# Understanding GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING LAWS

Florida



**Impact**  
Teen Drivers



STAGE 2

## DRIVER LICENSE WITH RESTRICTIONS

Once a teen passes the driving skills test, they will receive their Driver License.

A Driver License allows the teen to drive alone. However, they must follow these driving restrictions while in this phase:

- 16 year-old drivers may not drive between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.\*
- 17 year-old drivers may not drive between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m.\*
- Safety belts are mandatory for drivers, front seat passengers, and passengers under the age of 18. Remember, safety belts save lives.
- No handheld electronic use while driving.

\*With exceptions noted in the state law, such as driving to or from work or while accompanied by a licensed driver who is at least 21 years old.



STAGE 1

## LEARNER'S LICENSE

The Learner's License stage is the time to gain driving experience. This stage can begin at age 15. If a teen is under 18 years old, they must have parental consent to obtain their Learner's License. Teens must present proof of Traffic Law and Substance Abuse Education (TLSAE) course completion.

Once a teen has studied the Florida Driver License Handbook, they will take the knowledge test online, at a Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV) local driver license service center, or in their school's driver education class. Once they pass the knowledge and vision test and provide essential documents to the FLHSMV, they become the proud holder of a Learner's License.

Teens need a minimum of 50 hours of behind-the-wheel supervised driving time with a licensed adult who is at least 21 years old. For the first three months, they may only drive during daylight hours. After those three months, they may drive until 10pm. Ten of their 50 supervised driving hours must be at night.

They will hold their Learner's License for a minimum of one year before taking the driving test for a Driver License.



STAGE 3

## FULL DRIVER LICENSE

Once a teen turns 18 years of age, the nighttime driving restriction is lifted.

With a full driver license, teens can participate in all 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.

It is best practice to put away electronic devices and ensure all passengers are wearing their safety belt each and every ride.

