

# 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 drivers 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 Instruction Permit
- 2 Provisional 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/Minnesota](https://ImpactTeenDrivers.org/Minnesota) for more information.



# Understanding GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING LAWS

Minnesota



**Impact**  
Teen Drivers



STAGE 2

## PROVISIONAL DRIVER LICENSE

Once a teen takes and passes the road test, 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:

- For the first six months of licensure: No more than one non-family member passenger under the age of 20.
- For the second six months of licensure: No more than three non-family member passengers under the age of 20.
- For the first six months of licensure: No driving between the hours of midnight and 5 a.m.\*
- Must not use a cellphone or any other handheld device while driving. Remind everyone to buckle up properly every ride.

\*With exceptions noted in the state law.



STAGE 1

## INSTRUCTION PERMIT

The Instruction Permit stage is the time to gain driving experience.

This stage can begin at age 15. Teens must complete 30 hours of driver's classroom instruction and enroll in a behind-the-wheel instruction course.

Once a teen has studied the Minnesota Driver's Manual, they should head to their local DVS to take the written knowledge test. Once they pass the exam, they become the proud holder of an Instruction Permit.

Teens need a minimum of 50 hours of behind-the-wheel supervised driving time with a licensed driver who is at least 21 years of age. 15 of those hours must be at night and six hours must be with a driving instructor.

Teens will hold their Instruction Permit for a minimum of six months. Once the minimum time period has passed and they are at least 16 years old, they can make an appointment with their local Minnesota DVS office to take the skills road test.



STAGE 3

## FULL DRIVER LICENSE

To receive a full driver license, a teen must be at least 17 years old. After at least one year of safe driving, the passenger, nighttime, and electronic device GDL restrictions are lifted. Remember, hands-free is not distraction-free. All occupants need to wear a seat belt.

With a full driver 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.

Congrats!

