

Graduated Driver's License Pocket Guide



Importance of the Graduated Driver's License

The number of accidents involving teen drivers is quite alarming. In an effort to minimize the risks associated with new drivers on the road, Iowa has implemented a Graduated Driver Licensing program. The Graduated Driver Licensing program or GDL is a system designed to phase in young drivers to full driving privileges as they become more mature, gain driving experience, and develop their driving skills.

The GDL Law in Iowa went into effect January 1, 2014.

Helpful Resources

- One Second Program - onesecondiowa.org
- AAA Keys 2 Drive - teendriving.aaa.com/IA/
- Iowa Department of Transportation - iowadot.gov
- Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau - www.dps.state.ia.us/commis/gtsb

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1. Instruction Permit

- Available at age 14 with written approval of parent/guardian.
- All driving must be supervised by a licensed driver such as; a parent/guardian, an immediate family member at least 21 years of age, a driver education instructor or a person at least 25 years old with written permission of parent/guardian.

TO PROCEED:

- Must be held for a minimum of 12 months.
- Need to complete a minimum of 20 hours supervised driving with 2 hours at night.
- Need to hold a clean driving record for 6 consecutive months.

2. Minor School License (optional)

- Available at age 14 1/2.
- Complete an Iowa-approved driver education course.
- Live 1 mile or more from the school you are enrolled in.

ALLOWS YOU TO DRIVE:

- From home to school of enrollment or school sponsored activities using the most direct and accessible route. (Activities must be at the school you are enrolled in)

3. Intermediate License

- Available at age 16 once an Iowa-approved driver education course is completed.
- Must have held instruction permit for at least 1 year and a clean driving record for the last 6 months.

MAY DRIVE:

- Without supervision from 5 a.m. to 12:30 a.m.
- From 12:30 a.m. to 5 a.m. with a licensed driver - parent/guardian, immediate family member older than 21 years, or designated adult over 25 years old.

MAY NOT:

- Use a cell phone or other electronic communication while driving.
- Carry more than one minor passenger that is not a relative when driving without supervision.
- Carry more passengers than the number of seat belts in vehicle

4. Full License

- Available at age 17 with written approval of parent/guardian.
- Must have completed 10 hours of supervised driving with 2 hours at night.
- Must have held your intermediate license for the last 12 months.
- Must have a driving record free of incidents for that last 12 months.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH THIS LICENSE?

- Full driving privileges with no restriction