

Graduated Driver Licensing

Summary of Connecticut Law

revised 7/2011

Obtaining your learner's permit

- Must be at least 16 years old.
- Must pass a 25 question test.
- Bring your birth certificate or passport; an additional form of ID (for a list go to www.ct.gov/dmv); parental consent; proof of residence (a piece of addressed mail); \$40 for the test; and, \$18 for the permit.

Rules for learner's permit holders

- May only drive when supervised.
- No passengers except for a licensed driving instructor, or parents (must have license), or someone instructing the permit holder who is a licensed driver at least 20 years old (has had license for 4 years, no suspension in last 4 years).

Getting your license

- Required to have had a learner's permit for at least 120 days (if enrolled in a driving school), or 180 days (if home taught) before applying.
- Completed 30 hours of classroom instruction and 40 hours of on-the-road training. **A parent/legal guardian must take a 2-hour course.**
- Pass a Road Skills Test at the DMV.
- Bring your learner's permit; a vehicle for the road test; insurance card; the "qualified trainer" who will sign your application; and a \$66 to \$77 license fee.

Rules for all 16 and 17 year old drivers

- No driving from 11 pm to 5am, unless for school, job, religious, or medical necessity, or Safe Ride Program.
- No cell phone use, no hands-free cell phone use, no texting, no mobile electronic device use allowed.
- No passengers in the **first six months** of licensure, exceptions are the same as for the learner's permit period (see above).
- No passengers in the **second six months** of licensure, except for members of driver's immediate family.
- All passengers must wear seatbelts regardless of age, or be in an appropriate child passenger restraint (car seat).

48-hour suspension for 16 and 17 year old drivers

- Passenger, curfew, DUI, speeding over 20 mph, racing, and reckless driving violations will result in having your license seized on-the-spot by police and car towed.

For more detailed information on the graduated driver licensing law for teens in Connecticut visit

www.ct.gov/teendriving



Injury Prevention Center
www.connecticutchildrens.org



MODEL Parent-Teen Driving Contract for Connecticut

An agreement between teen drivers and their parents/legal guardians is a proven way to help in making the first years of driving safer. **Motor vehicle crashes remain the #1 killer of teens.** Take the time to make an agreement and then live up to it, obey the rules, enforce the consequences. Talk this over and then sign it.

- Seatbelts:** I understand that under the law I must wear a seatbelt and that I am responsible for making sure that every passenger in my car is also belted, no matter what their age.
- Distracted Driving:** Driving while talking on a cell phone, even when hands-free for teens, and texting while driving is illegal in CT. I agree to pull over or stop somewhere before using a phone or other electronic device.
- Night Driving:** I understand that under the law I may not drive between 11pm and 5am.
- Cruising/Joyriding:** I agree not to cruise/joyride, meaning that I will only drive between point A and point B for a purpose and will seek permission to drive every time I use the car.
- Passengers:** Under the law I know that I am not allowed to have other teen passengers in my car during the first 12 months that I have my license.
- Alcohol Consumption:** I understand that under the law I am not legally able to purchase or possess alcohol. I agree not drive after drinking or to be a passenger in a car driven by someone else who has been drinking. I understand that I can call my parent or legal guardian to pick me up if I have a problem and need a ride.
- Speeding and the Rules of the Road:** I understand that it is illegal to drive over the posted speed limit. I agree to drive at a reasonable speed and to obey stop signs and traffic signals. I further agree to pause and look left, right, and left again before proceeding through any intersection at which I am stopped.
- Violations of the Above Rules:** For any of the rules above, a violation includes being ticketed by police, being warned by police, or being observed by neighbors, family, or friends engaged in the prohibited behavior. **I agree to a _____ day suspension of driving privileges for the first offense and a _____ day suspension for each additional offense.** I will give my keys and license to my parent to hold during the suspension period. *[write-in the agreed upon number of days on the lines above]*

By signing you agree to be bound by this contract:

I agree to give my teen supervised driving experience. After they have their license I agree to give them use of a vehicle and to give them a ride home any time day or night should they find themselves in a bad situation or otherwise need help.

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN

DATE

I agree to abide by the laws and the rules stated above.

TEEN DRIVER

DATE

Go to www.ctdrive.blogspot.com to register and receive FREE periodic teen driving news and updates on CT law for teen drivers.



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