

Licensing, Learning and Limits

The family is in the best position to have a sustained effect on minimizing risk faced by inexperienced teen drivers and encouraging responsible behavior.

Parental reinforcement of basic driving skills and good decision making will lead to safe driving habits that will last a lifetime.

Parents: when you begin to practice with your teen:

- Enjoy your time together while practicing
- Set a good example when you drive
- Correct your own bad driving habits
- Use the 40-hour Parent/Teen Driving Guide

And always **Buckle-Up!**

Obtaining a Learner's Permit

Parents must:

- Grant DMV permission to issue their child a learner's permit and driver's license.
- Provide their child with at least 40 hours of guided practice, 10 of which must be after sunset.
- Determine when their child is ready to drive un-chaperoned.
- Suspend the child's driving privileges if he or she is not demonstrating responsible behavior.
- Notify their insurance agent when their child receives a 180-day provisional license.
- Continue to monitor their child's driving after receipt of a provisional license and reinforce safety belt use, limit passengers, cell phone use and other driving distractions.

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

Learner's Permit Requirement:

- Must be at least 15 years and 6 months old.
- Must have parent permission if less than 18 years old.
- Must complete a DMV application and pay for both the learner's permit and the driver's license.
- Must pass traffic sign test with a 100% and before you can take the 25-question general knowledge exam in Part Two.
- Must score at least 80% to pass Part Two.
- Must take a vision test.

Applicants must also show:

- 2 proofs of identification.
(only 1 is required if the applicant is under age 19)
- Proof of Virginia residency.
(parents or guardians may certify residency if the applicant is less than 19 years old)
- Proof of legal presence.
- Proof of social security number.

Obtaining that First License

Less than 19 years old

- Be at least 16 years and 3 months old.
- Complete a state-approved driver education course.
- Have a minimum of 36 class periods of classroom instruction.
- 14 periods of in-car instruction with 7 periods of driving and 7 periods of observation.
- Have a learner's permit at least 9 months.
- Have a parent/guardian certify that they have driven at least 40 hours, 10 of which must be completed after sunset.

Older than 19 years old

- Have proof that they passed a state-approved driver education course; or,
- Have a learner's permit for at least 30 days before taking the DMV road skills test.

What next?

- Once the applicant has completed all of the requirements, the in-car driver education teacher will issue him/her a ninety-day provisional driver's license. This document is a valid license when accompanied by a Virginia learner's permit.
- The in-car instructor will send a copy of the provisional license to DMV for issuance of a permanent driver's license.
- The applicant will receive a legal notice instructing him/her to appear in court accompanied by a parent or guardian, to receive the permanent driver's license.

ONE MORE TIP....

Parents: when accompanying your teen while practicing, focus on the driving tasks and practice and leave the family issues at home.