



TRAFFIC LAWS

(Prince William County Example)

Laws most often violated by teen drivers:

Provisional License:

Licenses issued to persons less than 19 years old are subject to certain restrictions.

- Upon issuance and conviction of a citation with demerit points, the court may order persons to attend a driver's improvement course. This course will not merit any points to the attendant's license unless they attend the course voluntarily without court order.
- Upon a second conviction of a traffic citation with demerit points, the court may suspend the license of the offender for 90 days.
- Upon a third conviction with demerit points, the court may suspend the offender's license for a period of one year or until the offender's eighteenth birthday.
- Demerit points remain on a juvenile license for two years.
- *During the first year of the provisional license, a juvenile driver may only have one passenger under the age of eighteen in the vehicle. After the first year, a juvenile driver may transport up to three persons under the age of eighteen until the operator's eighteen birthday. These restrictions do not apply to family or household members.*

AGGRESSIVE DRIVING

Anyone convicted of aggressive driving may have their driving privileges suspended for up to six months.

A person is guilty of aggressive driving if (i) the person violates one or more of the following: § [46.2-802](#) (Drive on right side of highways), § [46.2-804](#) (Failure to observe lanes marked for traffic), § [46.2-816](#) (Following too closely), § [46.2-821](#) (Vehicles before entering certain highways shall stop or yield right-of-way), § [46.2-833.1](#) (Evasion of traffic control devices), § [46.2-838](#) (Passing when overtaking a vehicle), § [46.2-841](#) (When overtaking vehicle may pass on right), § [46.2-842](#) (Driver to give way to overtaking vehicle), § [46.2-842.1](#) (Driver to give way to certain overtaking vehicles on divided highway), § [46.2-843](#) (Limitations on overtaking and passing), any provision of Article 8 (§ [46.2-870](#) et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 46.2 (Speed), or § [46.2-888](#) (Stopping on highways); and (ii) that person is a hazard to another person or commits an offense in clause (i) with the intent to harass, intimidate, injure or obstruct another person.

RIGHT-OF-WAY

Statistically, right-of-way violations are the leading cause of accidents among teens. These violations range from pulling into a traffic lane to crossing traffic without having a clear path.

A person shall be guilty of reckless driving who fails to bring his vehicle to a stop immediately before entering a highway from a side road when there is traffic approaching on such highway within 500 feet of such point of entrance, unless (i) a "Yield Right-of-Way" sign is posted or (ii) where such sign is posted, fails, upon entering such highway, to yield the right-of-way to the driver of a vehicle approaching on such highway from either direction.

FOLLOWING TOO CLOSELY

This violation results in a large number of accidents due to the inability to stop when required. The driver of a motor vehicle shall not follow another motor vehicle, trailer, or semi-trailer more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard to the speed of both vehicles and the traffic on, and conditions of, the highway at the time.

DRIVER INATTENTION

Driver inattention could be anything from reaching for a CD to talking to friends. There are many distractions that take away from the ability to operate a motor vehicle and potentially could cause a fatal accident. Use of cell phones while driving should be banned and limits placed on excessively loud music.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS

A zero tolerance to alcohol and drug usage is the policy of the police department and school division.

It shall be unlawful for any person under the age of 21 to operate any motor vehicle after illegally consuming alcohol. Any such person with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.02 percent or more by weight by volume or 0.02 grams or more per 210 liters of breath but less than 0.08 by weight by volume or less than 0.08 grams per 210 liters of breath as indicated by a chemical test administered as provided in this article shall be in violation of this section.

CURFEW VIOLATION

The Prince William County Police Department regularly enforces the Curfew Ordinance. Ordinance 16-3, Code of Prince William County, Virginia, makes it unlawful, in Prince William County, for anyone 17 years of age, or less, to be, or remain, in any public place between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. Sunday through Thursday and between the hours of 11:59 p.m. and 5 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

EXEMPTIONS

Certain circumstances may exempt some juveniles from the Curfew Law. The exemptions are as follows:

- When accompanied by a parent, guardian, or other adult person to whom the minor has been temporarily entrusted.
- When engaged in an errand for a parent, guardian, or other adult person to whom the minor has been temporarily entrusted.
- When engaged in lawful employment.
- When attending an official school function, religious activity, civic function or recreational activity sponsored by a county or civic organization, or similar entity, and including travel to and from.
- When involved in an emergency.
- When in a vehicle during interstate travel.
- When on property or sidewalk abutting residence with permission of parent or guardian.
- When married, previously married, or emancipated.
- When participating in activities exercising First Amendment rights.
- When a minor is attending a scheduled performance at an entertainment business with the written permission of the minor's parent or guardian.

PROVISIONAL LICENSE HOLDERS CURFEW REQUIREMENTS

The holder of a provisional driver's license shall not operate a motor vehicle on the highways of the Commonwealth between the hours of midnight and 4:00 a.m. except when driving (i) to or from a place of business where he is employed; (ii) to or from a school-sponsored activity; (iii) accompanied by a parent, a person acting in loco parentis, or by a spouse who is 18 years old or older, provided that such person accompanying the driver is actually occupying a seat beside the driver and is lawfully permitted to operate a motor vehicle at the time; or (iv) in cases of emergency, including response by volunteer firefighters and volunteer rescue squad personnel to emergency calls.

PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents play an integral part in the safety of teen drivers and other drivers on the road. There are some things that parents can assist with that make their teens safer and more responsible.

- The vehicle should be in good operating condition with all safety features operational. The vehicle should possess a valid state inspection sticker.
- Parents should require their teens to follow the local curfew laws to prevent them from being a victim of a possibly impaired driver.
- Parents should consistently monitor their teens driving behavior and be prepared to limit driving based on their expectations of safe driving.
- Parents should ban cell phone use by their teens.