

## 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 45-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 45 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 use of safety belts, limits for passengers, ban on cell phone use, and limits for other driving distractions.

### Applicants must meet the following requirements for a learner's permit:

- 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 taking 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:

- Two proofs of identification (only one 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.

### Requirements for the First License - Less than 18 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 and 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 the applicant has driven at least 45 hours, 10 of which must be completed after sunset.

### Older than 19 years old

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

### What's next?

- Once the applicant has completed all of the requirements, the in-car driver education teacher will issue him/her a 90-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.

## A FEW MORE TIPS . . .

Applicants for a learner permit must pass a two-part knowledge test and a vision screening prior to receiving a permit. Applicants must also prove State of Virginia residency, prove their legal presence in the United States, and provide a Social Security number if they have one.

At no time may a driver under the age of 18 use a cellular phone or any other electronic communication devices while driving. This includes text messaging and does not allow an exception for hands-free devices.