

Teen Driving Program

Graduated Driver Licensing reduces the risk

- Drivers between the ages of 16-19 are more likely to be in a motor vehicle crash than other age groups.
- Motor vehicle crashes are one of the leading causes of death in teens.
- In Wisconsin alone, approximately 50 teens are killed in car crashes every year.



Becoming a safe, skilled driver takes lots of practice behind the wheel. Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) laws reduce the risk by making sure teens gradually build driving experience with supervision before getting their licenses and restricting driving after they are licensed. All states have some elements of graduated licensing. In addition, parents are encouraged to go above and beyond the legal minimum when setting rules for their teen drivers.

Current Wisconsin Graduated Driver Licensing Law			
	Instruction Permit	Probationary License	Regular License
To get one	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimum age is 15 - Enrolled in school (or graduated/GED) - Enrolled in Driver Education - Have an adult sponsor - Pass the knowledge test, sign test and vision screening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimum age is 16 - Proof of approved Driver Education course completion - Have a minimum of 50 hours of supervised driving with a qualified adult (10 hours must be at night) - Pass the driving skills test - Have an adult sponsor - Have no conviction for moving traffic violation for six months prior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must be at least age 19 - Drivers younger than 21 years old must maintain absolute sobriety. - Issued when a driver completes the first renewal, generally two to three years after receiving the Probationary License.
To drive with one	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If younger than 18, a qualified adult must be in the front passenger seat at all times - If the qualified adult* is not a qualified instructor, parent, guardian or spouse, the adult must be designated in writing by your parent or guardian prior to accompanying you while driving a vehicle. - Additional allowed passengers are immediate family members only. <p><i>*Qualified adult: a person with two years of driving experience who holds a valid, regular license and sits in the front seat.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For the first nine months or until age 18: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 5 a.m.-midnight: drivers may be unsupervised and without destination limits. Passengers allowed are immediate family, one non-family member and one qualified adult. From midnight-5 a.m.: drivers may be unsupervised only when driving between home, work and school. A qualified adult must be in the passenger seat for all other trips. Passengers allowed are immediate family, one non-family member and one qualified adult. - Restrictions are extended 6 months for moving violations or any violation of restrictions. - Demerit points for moving violations are doubled after the first offense. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drivers are responsible for understanding and following all of the driving laws including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seat belt use • Texting and cell phone use • Distracted driving • Impaired driving • Work zones

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Wisconsin Department of Transportation