



**Michigan's  
Graduated  
Driver  
Licensing:**

**A GUIDE  
FOR PARENTS**

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*Please note:* All of the following information is also available on the Michigan Department of State's Web site — [www.Michigan.gov/teedriver](http://www.Michigan.gov/teedriver)

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**T**he Michigan's Graduated Driver Licensing: A Guide for Parents contains valuable information on Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL), driver education, available resources, and more. Parents and teens are encouraged to read this publication and maintain it for reference as they go through the GDL process.

## TEEN RISK FACTORS FOR CRASHING

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**S**ixteen- and 17-year-old drivers have the highest crash rates of any age group. Crash rates peak during the first six months of licensure that teens drive without supervision, making this an essential time for parents to be involved with their teen drivers. The major reason for crashes among newly licensed drivers is the failure to identify potential risks and react appropriately.

Our culture tends to view teens as young adults when, neurologically, they are only large children. The area of the brain that regulates logic and reasoning develops before the area that controls impulse and emotion. Young drivers often do not have the full capacity to control impulses. Inexperience and immaturity combine to make young drivers especially at-risk in five circumstances:

1. **At night:** Driving is more difficult and dangerous at night for everyone, but particularly for teenagers.  
Young drivers have less experience driving at night than during the day, and drowsiness and alcohol may be more of a factor at night. Sixteen- and 17-year-old drivers are about three times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash at night than during the day.
2. **After drinking alcohol:** Young driver's inexperience with both driving and drinking means that they have a higher crash risk no matter how much alcohol they have consumed when compared to older drivers.
3. **With passengers:** Teenage passengers can distract young drivers and encourage them to take risks.  
Adding just one passenger increases a teen driver's crash risk by 50 percent. Three or more passengers – the risk is nearly four times greater than when alone. Limiting passengers is essential.
4. **When unbelted:** Seat belts reduce the risk of injury or fatality in a crash, but teenage drivers and passengers have lower belt use rates than older drivers and passengers. Today's teens are not buckling up. Males and passengers have the lowest use rates. For fatal crashes in 2011, 58 percent of teen drivers age 15-19 and 50 percent of their passengers were not buckled up.

5. **When using cell phones:** All drivers are at higher risk when talking or texting; however, young drivers use cell phones more frequently than older drivers and have more difficulty handling distractions. Many teens do not understand the dangers of distracted driving.

It is important that adults provide guidance, oversight and set limits for their teen drivers. Parents, guardians, and mentors, play a critical role in helping teens survive their most dangerous driving years. Parents who set, monitor and enforce safe driving practices have teens that are less likely to receive traffic tickets or be involved in traffic crashes.

## HOW GDL WORKS TO REDUCE TEEN DRIVING RISKS

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**A** teen's first year behind the wheel is critical. That is why Michigan and other states across the country have adopted GDL laws for teen drivers. GDL is designed to help teens gradually and safely build their skills and experience behind the wheel and is responsible for 20- to 40-percent reductions in teen crashes. In Michigan, GDL consists of two segments of driver education instruction and three licensing levels.

**Driver Education:** Driver Education Segment 1 includes a minimum of 24 hours of classroom instruction; minimum of six hours of behind-the-wheel instruction; and a minimum of four hours of observation time as a passenger in a training vehicle. Driver Education Segment 2 includes a minimum of six hours of classroom instruction.

### GDL Licensing Levels and Restrictions:

Level 1 Learner's License\* – Teens with a Level 1 License may only drive with a licensed parent, guardian or designated licensed adult age 21 or older.

1. Level 2 Intermediate License\* – Teens with a Level 2 License:
  - Shall not operate a motor vehicle between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. except when:
    - driving to or from or in the course of employment;
    - driving to or from an authorized activity; or
    - accompanied by a parent or legal guardian or a licensed driver 21 years of age or older designated by the parent or legal guardian.
2. Shall not operate a motor vehicle at any time with more than 1 passenger in the vehicle who is younger than 21 years of age except:
  - when the additional passengers are immediate family members;
  - when driving to or from, or in the course of employment;
  - while going to or from an authorized activity; or
  - when accompanied by a parent or legal guardian or a licensed driver 21 years of age or older designated by the parent or legal guardian.

Authorized activity means any of the following:

- (a) A school or a school-sanctioned event or activity. School means a public or private school, including a home school.
- (b) A sporting event or activity, or extracurricular event or activity, that is not school-sanctioned but that is part of an official sports league or association or an official extracurricular club, or that

is paid for as a service offered by a business specializing in those events or activities or training for those events or activities.

- (c) A class or program of vocational instruction offered by a college, community college, nonprofit association, or unit of government or by a business specializing in vocational training.
- (d) An event or activity sponsored by a religious organization that is tax-exempt under federal law.
- (e) Transporting an individual in need of immediate emergency care or personal protection to a health-care professional, hospital, police station, domestic violence shelter, or public safety location.

\*It is illegal for any teen driver with a GDL Level 1 or Level 2 to use a cell phone while driving. "Use" means to initiate a call; answer a call; or listen to or engage in verbal communication through a cell phone. This does not apply if the teen is using a voice-operated system that is integrated into the vehicle or if they use the cell phone to: 1) Report a traffic accident, medical emergency or serious road hazard, 2) Report a situation in which the teen believes his or her personal safety is in jeopardy, and 3) Report or prevent the commitment of a crime or potential crime against the teen or another person.

Level 3 Full License – Teens with a Level 3 license have no state-imposed license restrictions.

## CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATING GDL RESTRICTIONS

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**T**eens ticketed and convicted of violating the restrictions of their GDL license will be referred for a driver assessment reexamination by the Michigan Department of State. Depending on the nature of the violation, the department may suspend the teen's license for up to a year. Any suspension action taken against the license may also significantly delay a teen's advancement through GDL.

Teens must be 90 days crash- and violation-free before applying for a Level 2 license. For a Level 3 license, teens must be crash- and violation-free for 12 consecutive months before applying.

## HOW PARENTS CAN LEVERAGE GDL

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**D**riving is a learned activity that takes practice. No matter how intelligent, level-headed, respectful, or talented a teen may be, when it comes to driving, all teens face a serious crash risk. Teens must drive to gain skill in all types of situations and conditions in order to reduce this risk. Supervise your teen's driving for as much and as long as possible. Seek out opportunities to continue to drive with your teen after Level 2 licensure. It takes 3 to 5 years for novices to be exposed to the myriad of driving situations they will encounter. Parents are the key enforcers of GDL and they are in the best position to supplement more stringent driving restrictions and determine when their teen is ready to progress to the next licensing level. When making licensing decisions for your teen, assess their ability to understand the risks, handle the stress, and control the vehicle. Above all, remember that driving is a privilege, not a right.

## GETTING STARTED IN GDL

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### Choosing a Driver Education Program

Driver education programs are provided by both public school districts and private driving schools. When selecting a school, it is important to consider the school's reputation in the community, program cost and any contract requirements. A list of driver education providers is on the Department of State Web site at [www.Michigan.gov/teendriver](http://www.Michigan.gov/teendriver).

### Driver Training Schools — Teens with Special Needs

The Americans with Disabilities Act and Michigan Person with Disability Civil Rights Act apply to driver education programs and services. There is no distinction between public and private schools; they are both required to work with teens with special needs. Students with disabilities who attend driver education may be entitled to accommodations (including appropriate auxiliary aids and services) at no cost, as long as their disabilities do not prevent them from driving safely and unless providing such auxiliary aids or services would fundamentally alter the nature of the program or result in an undue burden. The Michigan Department of State encourages parents and driver education providers to work together to provide an appropriate accommodation to help meet the need of the student. For additional information, contact the U.S. Department of Justice ADA Information Line at 800-514-0301 (voice); 800-514-0383 (TTY); [www.ada.gov](http://www.ada.gov). Or contact the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, 800-482-3604 (voice); 877-878-8464 (TTY).

## BEGINNING DRIVER EDUCATION

### Segment 1 Driver Education

#### Requirements

- 14 years, 8 months of age
- Permission of parent/guardian

#### Availability

- Driver education providers who are certified to teach teens

#### Minimum Course Content

- 24 hours of classroom instruction
- Six hours behind-the-wheel driving experience
- Four hours of observation time in a training vehicle

#### Restrictions

- May drive only with driver education instructor unless school issued limited parent driving permit

**C**ongratulations! Your daughter or son is 14 years, 8 months old and is eligible to begin driver education. As a parent or legal guardian, your first step begins by granting permission to your teen to enroll in a Segment 1 driver education course certified by the Michigan Department of State. You have the right to postpone enrolling your teen in driver education if you feel he or she is not ready to take on the responsibilities of learning to drive. Segment 1 of driver education consists of a minimum of 24 hours of classroom instruction, a minimum of six hours of behind-the-wheel instruction and a minimum of four hours of observation time in a training vehicle. Segment 1 is designed to prepare teens to acquire a Level 1 License. Upon successful completion of Segment 1 and the Segment 1 Knowledge Test, developed by the Department of State, a green driver education *Segment 1 Certificate of Completion* will be issued to your teen. The *Segment 1 Certificate of Completion* is **not a permit to drive and cannot be treated as a driver's license.**

You may want to request a final assessment of your son or daughter's driving skills after the instruction has been completed.

After completing Segment 1, your teen is ready to apply for a Level 1 License. Both you and your teen must go to a Secretary of State branch office to apply for the Level 1 License.

**Points to remember:**

- Contact your teen's school well in advance of when you wish your teen to start GDL. Failure to apply in advance may delay enrollment until the next session. Both public school districts and private driving schools provide driver education courses.
- Your teen must be at least 14 years, 8 months to begin Segment 1 of driver education.
- Obtain date, time and location for the Segment 1 driver education course.
- Obtain date for GDL Parent Orientation Meeting (if school offers one).
- Follow enrollment procedure for the school you choose.
- Notify the school if your teen has any physical or medical conditions that might affect his or her classroom or driving instruction.
- Vision screening will be **required** prior to your teen's approval to begin the behind-the-wheel instruction as part of Segment 1 of the driver education course.
- Obtain a vision screening from a health professional or contact the school to see if one is provided.
- Obtain a certified copy of your teen's birth certificate—hospital birth certificates are not acceptable. Certified birth certificates are available from the county clerk's office of the county where your teen was born. A Michigan state identification card or moped license will also be accepted.
- **Make plans to ensure your teen has safe transportation to and from the Segment 1 driver education course.**
- The Driver Education *Segment 1 Certificate of Completion* is **not a permit to drive and cannot be treated as a driver's license.**

<b>MICHIGAN DRIVER EDUCATION</b>			A 1111111
DES-001 (Rev. 03/14)	<b>SEGMENT 1</b>	CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION	
This is to certify that:			
_____	_____	_____	_____
First	Middle	Last	Date
Date of Birth: _____			
_____	_____	_____	_____
Month	Day	Year	
Has successfully completed Segment 1 of a driver education course in compliance with PA 384 of 2006. The instruction was provided by:			
NAME OF SCHOOL _____			Driver Education Instructor Signature _____
City _____			Authorized School Official Signature _____
DRIVER EDUCATION CODE _____			<b>THIS IS NOT A DRIVER LICENSE. THE STUDENT MUST OBTAIN A LEVEL 1 LICENSE FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO DRIVE A VEHICLE.</b>

(Not shown in actual color or size)

## PREPARING FOR THE LEVEL 1 LEARNER'S LICENSE

### Level 1 Learner's License

#### Requirements

- Must have a *Certificate of Completion* for Segment 1
- Must present proof of:
  - A Social Security number or letter of ineligibility
  - U.S. citizenship or legal presence
  - Identity
  - Michigan residency
- Parent/guardian signature required on application
- Pass vision screening required by Secretary of State

#### Availability

- Obtain Level 1 License at a Secretary of State branch office

#### Restrictions

- May only drive with licensed parent/guardian or designated licensed adult age 21 or older
- Parent/guardian or designated adult should sit in the front seat
- If driving with a designated adult, driver should carry a signed letter of authorization from parent/guardian
- May not use a cell phone while driving (Kelsey's Law)

**A**fter your teen completes the Segment 1 driver education course and before you and your teen begin the required 50 hours of supervised driving time, you will need to go to the Secretary of State office to obtain the Level 1 Learner's License. Many people prefer to obtain the Level 1 License as soon as possible because GDL requires your teen to hold a Level 1 License for at least six months from the date of issuance (found on the upper left corner of the Level 1 License), before applying for a Level 2 License. However, it is at the parent's discretion as to when they will allow their teen to obtain their Level 1 License.

#### Points to remember:

- Bring the following to a Secretary of State branch office when applying for a Level 1 License:
  - The green *Certificate of Completion* for Segment 1. **The green *Certificate of Completion* is not a driver's license.**

- Proof of your teen’s Social Security number, such as a Social Security card, W-2 form or a pay stub, OR a letter of ineligibility from the Social Security Administration.
  - Proof of your teen’s U.S. citizenship or legal presence, such as a certified birth certificate or valid U.S. passport.
  - Proof of your teen’s identity, such as a driver education certificate, school record or yearbook.
  - Proof of your teen’s Michigan residency, such as a high school report card or bank statement. (*Residency documents in a family member’s name may be used if the family relationship can be established by other forms of documented proof. For a list of all accepted Social Security, identity, legal presence and residency documents, visit [www.Michigan.gov/teendriver](http://www.Michigan.gov/teendriver).*)
- As the parent or legal guardian, you will need to grant written permission on the Level 1 License application for your teen to obtain the license.
  - Obtain the following from the branch office staff:
    - A validated Level 1 License. There is no fee.
      - A copy of *The Parents Supervised Driving Guide* (SOS-191), which includes a log for recording the required hours of supervised driving with your teen.
      - A copy of the *Your Probationary License Brochure* (SOS-215).
- The Parents Supervised Driving Guide, Your Probationary License Brochure and many other teen driver resources are also available at: [www.Michigan.gov/teendriver](http://www.Michigan.gov/teendriver).*
- After the Level 1 License is issued to your teen, you may cancel it at any time if you believe your teen is not ready to drive under supervision. To cancel the Level 1 License, you will need to go to a Secretary of State branch office, turn in the Level 1 License and sign a *Driver License Cancellation* form. If the license is lost, stolen or unavailable, as a parent, you must sign a certification stating the reason the license is not available.
  - Teens who have not been previously licensed will be placed on a minimum three-year probationary period beginning when a Level 1 License is issued. Probation is a separate program from GDL. Please see page 23 of this booklet for more information.

## YOUR TEENAGER HAS A LEVEL 1 LICENSE: NOW WHAT?

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**T**he Level 1 License is a supervised learner's license. It places the greatest restrictions on your teen's driving privileges during the time he or she is beginning to acquire the fundamental skills necessary to be a competent and safe driver. With a Level 1 License, a teen may operate a motor vehicle only when accompanied by a licensed parent or legal guardian or any licensed driver 21 years of age or older designated by the parent or legal guardian.

As a parent or guardian, it is your responsibility to make sure your teen completes the required supervised driving with you or another licensed adult driver before Segment 2 of driver education begins. If your teen is driving with a designated licensed adult, your teen **should** carry a signed letter of authorization from you.

Now is a good time to develop a *Parent-Teen Safe Driving Contract* with your teen, setting the limits for acceptable and safe driving behavior (see sample contract on the Secretary of State's Web site at: **[www.Michigan.gov/teedriver](http://www.Michigan.gov/teedriver)**). By showing an interest in your teen's progress, asking positive questions and emphasizing the importance of courtesy and good driving skills, you will help your teen become a safe and responsible driver.

### Points to remember:

- Contact your insurance agent to verify coverage with a Level 1 License.
- Help your teen develop the habit of always carrying his or her license when driving.
- Prepare the driving log and record all supervised driving time. The *The Parent's Supervised Driving Guide (SOS-191)* provides a driving log for your use. For information on how best to structure the behind-the-wheel experience for your teen's benefit, as well as your own, talk to your teen's driver education instructor and check the resource list at the back of this booklet.
- Begin providing supervised driving time with your teen. Your teen must complete a minimum of 30 hours of supervised driving, including a minimum of two hours of nighttime driving before beginning Segment 2 of the driver education course. Your teen must possess a valid Level 1 License for not less than three continuous months prior to enrolling in Segment 2. A good rule of thumb is to complete at least 10 hours of supervised driving each month between Segment 1 and Segment 2.

- If you do not want your teen to advance to the next level of licensing, he or she may continue to drive with a Level 1 License until age 18.

## PREPARING FOR SEGMENT 2 OF DRIVER EDUCATION

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### Segment 2 Driver Education

#### Requirements

- 30 hours minimum of supervised driving time including a minimum of two hours night driving
- Held a valid Level 1 License for not less than three continuous months

#### Availability

- Driver education providers who are certified to teach teens

#### Minimum Course Content

- Six hours of classroom driver education instruction

**T**o enroll in Segment 2, your teen must have held a valid Level 1 License for not less than three continuous months. The Department of State requires that your teen must log at least 30 hours of supervised driving, including two hours at night, with a licensed parent, guardian or designated licensed adult age 21 or older before entering Segment 2.

#### **Points to remember:**

- Your teen is still driving with their Level 1 Learners License when taking the Segment 2 course, so they must be accompanied by a licensed parent, licensed legal guardian or designated licensed adult age 21 or older when driving to or from the course.



## GETTING READY FOR THE DRIVING SKILLS TEST

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### Driving Skills Tests

#### Requirements

- Completed Segment 2 of the driver education course
- Completed a minimum 50 hours of supervised driving, which includes a minimum of 10 hours of night driving
- Has had a Level 1 License for a minimum of six months

#### Availability

- Independent testing organization approved by the Secretary of State
- Driving skills test fee required, varies with testing organization

**B**efore your teen driver can apply to take the driving skills test, he or she must have successfully completed Segment 2 of the driver education course, received the white *Segment 2 Certificate of Completion* and logged a minimum of 50 hours supervised driving which includes a minimum of 10 hours at night. Driving skills tests are provided by independent third-party testing organizations approved by the Secretary of State's office.

The driving skills test will consist of two parts—a basic control skills test and an on-road driving test.

#### Points to remember:

- Review the Michigan Department of State's *Driving Skills Test Study Guide* (SOS-360) with your teen.

- **Practice all required driving skills and maneuvers outlined in the *Driving Skills Test Study Guide* with your teen.** These skills are basic to becoming a competent driver. Failure to practice them can place your teen at a disadvantage at the driving skills test. Practicing is not allowed on third-party testing sites.
- Contact an independent third-party testing organization to schedule a date, time and location. **Driving skills test fees vary; be sure to ask about the cost.** A list of third-party testing organizations is available at any Secretary of State branch office or on the department's Web site ([www.Michigan.gov/teendrivers](http://www.Michigan.gov/teendrivers)). Your teen's driver education instructor may have additional information about third-party testing organizations in your area.
- Make sure the vehicle your teen drives during the driving skills test is safe and that your teen is familiar with its operation. If the vehicle does not meet the equipment and safety standards as described in the *Driving Skills Test Study Guide*, it cannot be used for the driving skills test.
- Provide the driving skills test examiner with the following documents:
  - The white *Segment 2 Certificate of Completion*.
  - The Level 1 License.
  - Valid vehicle registration for the vehicle your teen will use during the skills test.
  - Proof of insurance certificate for the vehicle your teen will use during the skills test.
- **Be sure to allow at least one hour for the driving skills test.** You, as a parent or legal guardian, will be required to ride in the vehicle during the road test portion of the basic skills test. No additional passengers are allowed.
- A parent or legal guardian must sign a certification that the applicant has completed the required minimum 50 hours of behind-the-wheel driving experience.
- When your teen passes the driving skills test, he or she will receive a *Driver Skills Test Certificate*.
- **If your teen fails to pass the driving skills test:**
  - You will receive a test review explaining the reasons for failure.
  - You will need to obtain information about retesting.
  - Review the *Driving Skills Test Study Guide* with your teen.
  - Continue to supervise your teen's driving, emphasizing the correct driving skills and stressing those that were not passed during the driving skills test.
  - A retesting fee will be required. These fees will vary by testing organization.

## THE LEVEL 2 INTERMEDIATE LICENSE

### Level 2 Intermediate License

#### Requirements

- Teen is at least 16 years old
- Meet physical and medical licensing standards
- Possessed a Level 1 License for six months
- Completed Segment 1 and 2 of an approved driver education program
- Passed a driving skills test and presented a skills test certificate
- Must present proof of legal presence. (Proof of a Social Security number, identity and Michigan residency will also be required if it was not provided at Level 1.)
- Completed a minimum of 50 hours of supervised driving time, including 10 hours at night
- Must be violation and suspension free, and have no at-fault crashes during the 90 days prior to applying for the Level 2 License
- Have a parent or legal guardian sign the application and certify the minimum 50 hours of behind-the-wheel driving experience

#### Availability

- Obtain Level 2 License at a Secretary of State branch office (a fee is required)

#### Restrictions

- Prohibited from using a cell phone while driving
- Shall not operate a motor vehicle between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. except when: driving to or from or in the course of employment; driving to or from an authorized activity; or accompanied by a parent or legal guardian or a licensed driver 21 years of age or older designated by the parent or legal guardian.
- Shall not operate a motor vehicle at any time with more than 1 passenger in the vehicle who is less than 21 years of age except: when the additional passengers are immediate family members; when driving to or from or in the course of employment; while going to or from an authorized activity; or when accompanied by a parent or legal guardian or a licensed driver 21 years of age or older designated by the parent or legal guardian.

#### Parent Option

- Parent/guardian has the option of requesting in writing that the teen driver remain at Level 2 and not automatically advance to Level 3 at age 17. Request must be made at least 30 days before teen's 17th birthday.

## Parent/Teen Contract

Now is a good time to develop a *Parent-Teen Safe Driving Contract* with your teen, setting the limits for acceptable and safe driving behavior. A sample contract is available at: **[www.Michigan.gov/teendriver](http://www.Michigan.gov/teendriver)**. By showing an interest in your teen's progress, asking positive questions and emphasizing the importance of courtesy and good driving skills, you will help your teen become a safe and responsible driver.

## Authorized activity means any of the following:

- a) A school or a school-sanctioned event or activity. School means a public or private school, including a home school.
- b) A sporting event or activity, or extracurricular event or activity, that is not school-sanctioned but that is part of an official sports league or association or an official extracurricular club, or that is paid for as a service.
- c) A class or program of vocational instruction offered by a college, community college, nonprofit association, or unit of government or by a business specializing in vocational training.
- d) An event or activity sponsored by a religious organization that is tax-exempt under federal law.
- e) Transporting an individual in need of immediate emergency care or personal protection to a health care professional, hospital, police station, domestic violence shelter, or public safety location.

## Points to remember:

- To obtain a Level 2 License your teen must:
  - Be at least 16 years old.
  - Have parental permission.
  - Have completed Segment 1 and Segment 2 of the driver education course.
  - Have completed a minimum of 50 hours of behind-the-wheel experience, of which at least 10 hours must include driving at night.
  - Have held a Level 1 License for at least six months.
  - Be violation and suspension free, and have no at-fault crashes during the 90 days prior to applying for a Level 2 License.
- Bring the following to the Secretary of State branch office when applying for the Level 2 License:
  - The Level 1 License.
  - The *Segment 2 Certificate of Completion*.
  - The *Driving Skills Test Certificate*.
  - Provide the following: a) Social Security card, b) original or certified copy of birth certificate or legal presence documentation, c) identity verification and d) two items of Michigan residency. Visit **[www.Michigan.gov/teendriver](http://www.Michigan.gov/teendriver)** for the list of acceptable documentation.

- Cash, check or money order to pay the fee for the Level 2 License. Secretary of State branch offices also accept Discover and MasterCard, and Visa at the counter. A nominal service fee is charged.

### Parent's Authority to Cancel or Restrict License

When your teen applies for a Level 2 License, **you** have the choice of allowing your teen to automatically advance to a Level 3 License when he or she is eligible or delaying the Level 3 License until **you** decide your teen is ready to have full driving privileges with no restrictions.

If you **do not** want your teen to automatically advance to a Level 3 License, you must complete the *Parent/Guardian Request to Continue Minor's Level 2 Intermediate License form*. This form (BFS-146) is available at your local Secretary of State branch office or at **www.michigan.gov/teendrivers**. This form was included with the information you received at the time you and your teen applied for the Level 2 License at the Secretary of State branch office. **This form must be completed and mailed 30 days before your teen's 17th birthday.** Your teen will continue to drive under the Level 2 restrictions until you decide your teen is ready for a Level 3 License or until your teen turns 18 years old. GDL ends for teens when they turn 18.

Once the Level 2 License is issued, you may decide to restrict it to a Level 1 License. You may also cancel the Level 2 License if you believe your teen is not ready for it. You will need to go to a Secretary of State branch office, surrender your teen's license and sign a form to restrict or cancel it.

Once you restrict or cancel a license, you may reinstate it or lift the restrictions. To do so, you will need to go to a Secretary of State branch office and process a new application. You will be required to pay a fee and your teen's photograph will need to be retaken.



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## THE FINAL STAGE—GAINING FULL DRIVING PRIVILEGES AT LEVEL 3

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### Level 3 License

#### Requirements

- Teen is at least 17 years old
- Held Level 2 License for six months
- Must be violation- and suspension-free, and have no at-fault crashes for 12 consecutive months prior to applying for the Level 3 License

#### Availability

- With parent/guardian approval at Level 2, the Level 3 License is automatically mailed to teen
- If approval was not given, parent/guardian and teen must go to a Secretary of State branch office

#### Restrictions

- No fee is required
- No state-imposed license restrictions
- Parent or guardian may restrict or cancel the license

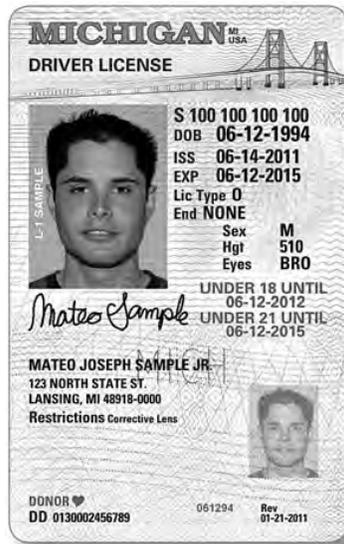
**A**lthough the Level 3 License carries no state-imposed restrictions, you may **continue to place limits** you feel necessary on your teen's driving privileges. Your teen is eligible for a Level 3 License if he or she is at least 17 years old, has held a Level 2 License for at least six months and has been crash- and violation-free during the prior 12 months.

You do not have to go to a Secretary of State branch office to obtain a Level 3 License. Your teen will automatically progress to a Level 3 License when he or she meets the Level 3 criteria shown above. The Level 3 License will be mailed to your teen's address on file with the Secretary of State.

**Once the Level 3 License is issued, you may decide to restrict it to a Level 2 or Level 1 License. You may also cancel the Level 3 License if you believe your teen is not ready for restricted or unrestricted driving privileges. You will need to go to a Secretary of State branch office, surrender your teen's license and sign a form to restrict or cancel it.**

**Points to remember:**

- Discuss your *Parent-Teen Safe Driving Contract* with your teen. You have the right to restrict your teen's driving activities when necessary.
- Your teen will automatically advance to a Level 3 License unless you inform the Secretary of State otherwise.
- You may restrict or cancel your teen's Level 3 License.
- GDL ends for teens when they turn 18, no matter what licensing level they have achieved.
- Teens exiting GDL may still be subject to probationary requirements. Probation does not automatically end at age 18. (See *A Word About the Michigan Department of State Probationary License Program*, page 23).



(Not shown in actual colors)

## **PROBATION:**

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### **A Word About the Michigan Department of State Probationary License Program**

All newly licensed first-time drivers in Michigan are placed on probation for at least three years. The probationary licensing program is a way for the Secretary of State to monitor their driving performance. Probation and GDL are independent programs that work together to control a teen's driving risk.

Teen drivers under probation with tickets or crashes on their records may face personal reviews called driver assessment reexaminations. These reexaminations may cause a teen's license to be restricted, suspended or both. Should this occur, a teen's advancement to the next level of GDL will be delayed.

During the last 10 months of probation, tickets, at-fault crashes or license suspensions will extend the probationary period until the driver can complete 10 months of consecutive, violation-free driving.

Young drivers with unsatisfactory driving records will continue to be under probation until they prove themselves safe and competent drivers, even if they are no longer in GDL.

## **WHAT ARE ZERO TOLERANCE AND MINOR IN POSSESSION LAWS?**

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### **Zero Tolerance**

Under the Zero Tolerance law, teens are at risk of losing their license if they consume alcohol. The consequences for breaking the Zero Tolerance law are tough. Penalties for a first offense include:

- Up to a \$250 fine and/or up to 360 hours of community service
- Driver's license is restricted for 30 days
- Four points on the teen's driving record
- Payment of a \$500 Driver Responsibility Fee for two years

Penalties for the second and subsequent violations will be significantly more severe. Additionally, there will be attorney fees to pay and automobile insurance premiums may increase.

Please note that a teen driver's Zero Tolerance conviction may also count as an alcohol offense under Michigan's Repeat Offender laws. One Zero Tolerance conviction is a misdemeanor carrying a 30-day driver's license restriction. Two Zero Tolerance convictions not in combination with any other alcohol offenses result in a 90-day driver's license suspension. A Zero Tolerance conviction in combination with another alcohol offense within seven years, or in combination with two other alcohol offenses within 10 years, can result in a driver's license revocation with no hardship appeal. For more information about the Repeat Offender laws, visit the Secretary of State's Web site at **[www.Michigan.gov/sos](http://www.Michigan.gov/sos)**.

### **Minor in Possession**

Teens and parents should also be aware that it is illegal for a teen to simply possess an alcoholic beverage. The beverage need not be opened to cause a minor to lose his or her driving privileges. Even an unopened container of alcohol found in a motor vehicle operated by a teen can result in a license suspension – even if the teen does not know it is there. Penalties for violating the Minor in Possession law include:

- First offense - \$100 fine, no action taken against the driver's license
- Second offense - \$200 fine, driver's license is suspended for 30 days and restricted for 60 days
- Third offense - \$500 fine, driver's license is suspended for 60 days and restricted for 305 days
- Community service may be required
- Alcohol screening may be required



Visit the online resource for new drivers  
[www.Michigan.gov/TeenDriver](http://www.Michigan.gov/TeenDriver)

**The ins and outs of driver's ed ...**

- How to find a certified driver education program
- What to expect from Segment 1
- What to expect from Segment 2

**Getting a license ...**

**Michigan's Graduated Licensing**

- Required documents to take to the Secretary of State
- Eligibility requirements
- Restrictions and violation consequences
- Probationary period

**Parents & Guardians**

- Knowing your role
- Coaching your teen's driving
- Setting rules & limits

**Plus ...**

- Moped license and motor-cycle endorsement
- Teen Driving Risk Awareness Publications
- Forms
- Resources
- FAQs



**Ruth Johnson**  
Secretary of State



## **AUTHORIZED ACTIVITY UNDER LEVEL 2 LICENSE MEANS ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- a) A school or a school-sanctioned event or activity. School means a public or private school, including a home school.
- b) A sporting event or activity, or extracurricular event or activity, that is not school-sanctioned but that is part of an official sports league or association or an official extracurricular club, or that is paid for as a service.
- c) A class or program of vocational instruction offered by a college, community college, nonprofit association, or unit of government or by a business specializing in vocational training.
- d) An event or activity sponsored by a religious organization that is tax-exempt under federal law.
- e) Transporting an individual in need of immediate emergency care or personal protection to a health care professional, hospital, police station, domestic violence shelter, or public safety location.

## **CELL PHONE RESTRICTIONS**

Teen drivers with a Level 1 or Level 2 Graduated Driver License are prohibited from initiating a call, answering a call, or listening to or engaging in verbal communication through a mobile phone. If ticketed, up to \$295 in fines and costs may be incurred.

This does not apply if using a voice-operated system integrated into the vehicle or if using a phone to:

- Report a traffic accident, medical emergency or serious road hazard.
- Report a situation in which you believe your personal safety is in jeopardy.
- Report or prevent a crime or potential crime against yourself or another person.

The law banning mobile phone use by teens, called Kelsey's Law, is named in honor of Kelsey Raffaele, 17, of Sault Ste. Marie, who died in a mobile phone-related automobile crash in 2010.

# MICHIGAN'S GRADUATED LICENSE SYSTEM

Driver Education Segment 1	Level 1 License	Preparation for Driver Education Segment 2	Driver Education Segment 2	Preparation for Driving Skills Test	Driving Skills Test	Level 2 License	Level 3 License
Minimum age of 14 years and 8 months Vision/health screening prior to behind-the-wheel experience Minimum 24 hours of classroom	No fee 14 years, 9 months of age Vision exam Health standards Written approval of parents	Complete at least 30 hours of the required 50 hours of behind-the-wheel practice driving with parent, including two hours of the required 10 hours night driving	Minimum six hours of classroom Written exam required	Complete what remains of the required 50 hours behind-the-wheel, including what remains of the 10 hours required night driving Review study guides	Fee will vary Minimum of six months at Level 1 Vehicle inspection Off-road test On-road test	Fee required 16 years of age 90 days crash- and violation-free prior to application for Level 2 License Shall not operate a motor vehicle between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. except when; driving to or from or in the course of employment; driving to or from an authorized activity; or accompanied by a parent or legal guardian or a licensed driver 21 years of age or older designated by the parent or legal guardian. Shall not operate a motor vehicle at any time with more than 1 passenger in the vehicle who is less than 21 years of age except: when the additional passengers are immediate family members; when driving to or from or in the course of employment; while going to or from an authorized activity; or when accompanied by a parent or legal guardian or a licensed driver 21 years of age or older designated by the parent or legal guardian.	No fee 17 years of age Minimum of six months at Level 2 12 consecutive months of crash- and-violation-free driving at Level 1/Level 2 prior to application for Level 3 License Full driving privileges with no restrictions

**Minimum three-week class**      **Minimum of six months**      **Minimum of six months**      **Minimum of six months**



**An alternative format of this printed material may be obtained by contacting the Department of State at (888) SOS-MICH (767-6424).**

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