

It takes time to learn how to be a good driver. The Illinois Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) Program was established to aid young, novice drivers in this effort.



As chair of the Teen Driver Safety Task Force, I brought together experts from across the State of Illinois to review Illinois' GDL laws. The recommendations of the task force made Illinois a national model regarding teen driver safety and have been lauded by such groups as the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the National Transportation Safety Board and the National Safety Council. The recommendations were signed into law and took effect in January 2008. These provisions, along with the involvement of parents, will help teens gain the experience they need for a lifetime of safe, responsible driving.

For more information on Illinois' Graduated Driver Licensing Program, please visit [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jesse White".

Jesse White  
Secretary of State

#### PARENTAL ACCESS TO TEEN'S DRIVING RECORD

The parent/legal guardian of a person under age 18 who holds an instruction permit or graduated driver's license may access the minor's driving record free online.

#### TEXTING AND CELL PHONE USAGE

- Texting while driving is prohibited for all drivers in Illinois.
- Cell phone use while driving is prohibited for drivers under age 19, except in the case of an emergency.
- Cell phone use in construction and school zones is against the law for all drivers in Illinois.

#### PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Secretary of State provides a Parent-Teen Driving Contract, available at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com), that establishes parameters and boundaries between parents and teens to enable young drivers to acquire safe driving habits and skills.

A parent/legal guardian must provide written consent at the time a minor applies for a driver's license at a Driver Services facility. The parent/legal guardian also must verify that the applicant has completed at least 50 hours of practice driving, including 10 hours at night.

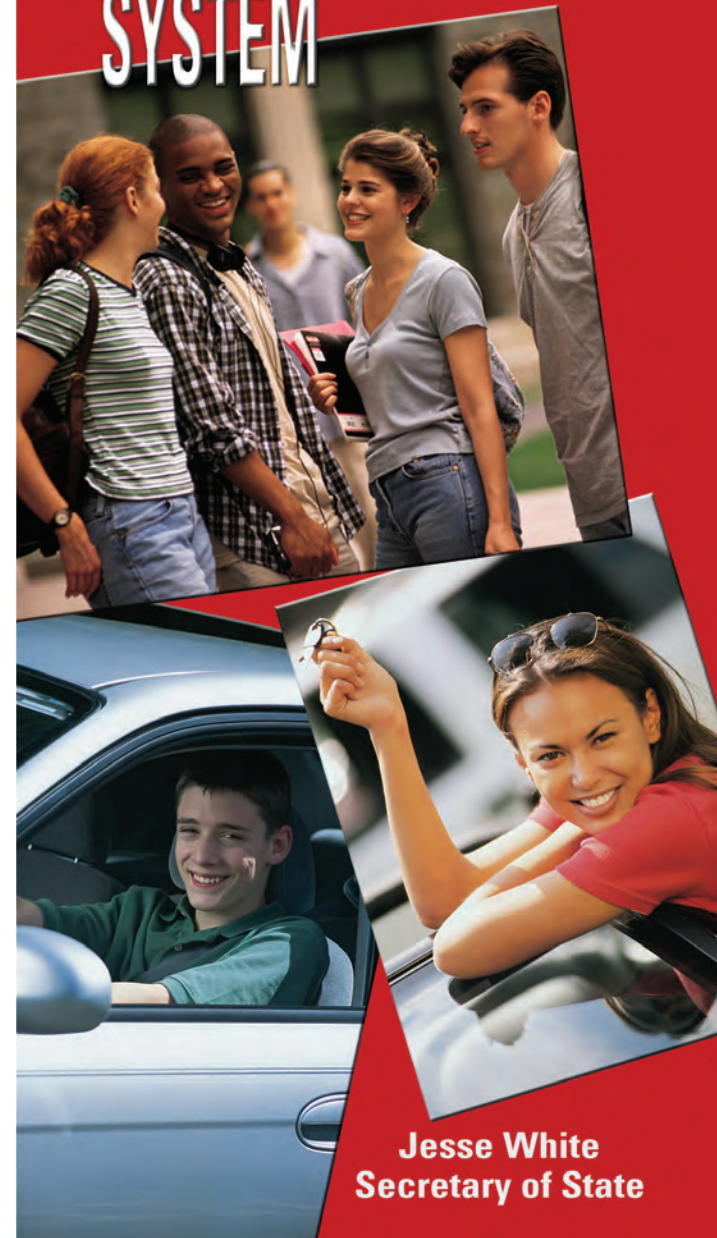
A parent/legal guardian may withdraw consent for the minor to hold a driver's license at any time, for any reason, until the driver turns 18 by contacting the Secretary of State's office. Driving privileges will not be reinstated until the parent/legal guardian again provides consent or until the driver turns 18. The teen driver must reapply for a driver's license, retake all applicable tests and pay the appropriate fees.

For more information:  
312-814-2905 • 217-782-2952  
888-261-5238 (TTY/NexTalk)

[WWW.CYBERDRIVEILLINOIS.COM](http://WWW.CYBERDRIVEILLINOIS.COM)

Jesse White • Secretary of State

# ILLINOIS GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING SYSTEM



Jesse White  
Secretary of State

# Graduated Driver Licensing Program

## PERMIT PHASE — DRIVERS AGE 15

- Parent/legal guardian consent required to obtain an instruction permit.
- Must be enrolled in an approved driver education course, and must pass vision and written tests.
- Nighttime driving restrictions — Sun.-Thurs., 10 p.m.-6 a.m.; Fri.-Sat., 11 p.m.-6 a.m. (local curfews may differ).
- Permit must be held for a minimum of nine months.
- Must practice driving a minimum of 50 hours, including 10 hours at night, supervised by a parent or adult age 21 or older with a valid driver's license.
- Must not acquire any driving convictions during the nine-month permit phase.
- Number of passengers limited to one in the front seat and the number of safety belts in the back seat.
- All occupants under age 19 must wear safety belts.
- Cell phone use while driving is prohibited for drivers under age 19, except in the case of an emergency.
- Texting while driving is prohibited.
- Permit is valid for up to two years.

### Sanctions

- To obtain court supervision for a traffic violation, a driver must appear in court with a parent/legal guardian and also must attend traffic safety school. Limit one court supervision for serious driving offenses.
- A moving violation conviction results in a nine-month waiting period before applying for a driver's license.
- Not eligible for any hardship permit.
- Anyone caught driving without a permit is ineligible to obtain a driver's license until age 18.

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## INITIAL LICENSING PHASE — DRIVERS AGES 16-17

- Parent/legal guardian must certify that a minimum of 50 hours of practice driving, including 10 hours at night, has been completed.
- Parent/legal guardian must accompany teen to provide written consent to obtain a driver's license, OR complete and notarize an Affidavit/Consent for Minor to Drive form.
- Must have completed a state-approved driver education course.
- Nighttime driving restrictions — Sun.-Thurs., 10 p.m.-6 a.m.; Fri.-Sat., 11 p.m.-6 a.m. (local curfews may differ).
- Must maintain a conviction-free driving record for six months prior to turning 18 before moving to the Full Licensing Phase. A traffic conviction during the Initial Licensing Phase may extend restrictions beyond age 18.
- All occupants under age 19 must wear safety belts.
- For the first 12 months of licensing, or until the driver turns 18, whichever occurs first, the number of passengers is limited to one person under age 20, unless the passenger(s) is a sibling, stepsibling, child or stepchild of the driver. After this period, the number of passengers is limited to one in the front seat and the number of safety belts in the back seat.
- Cell phone use while driving is prohibited for drivers under age 19, except in the case of an emergency.
- Texting while driving is prohibited.

### Sanctions

- To obtain court supervision for a traffic violation, a driver must appear in court with a parent/legal guardian and also must attend traffic safety school. Limit one court supervision for serious driving offenses.
- A moving violation conviction before age 18 generates a Secretary of State warning letter to the parent and teenager.
- A moving violation conviction that occurs within the first year of licensing will result in a six-month extension of the passenger limitation, which allows only one unrelated passenger under age 20.
- Two moving violation convictions occurring within a 24-month period results in a minimum one-month driver's license suspension. Suspension length is determined by the seriousness of the offenses and the driver's prior driving history. An additional driver's license suspension will result for each subsequent moving violation following the initial suspension.
- Suspended drivers must attend a remedial education course, may be retested and must pay a \$70 reinstatement fee.

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## FULL LICENSING PHASE — DRIVERS AGES 18-20

- No age-related restrictions apply except in cases where a driver fails to move from the Initial Licensing Phase to the Full Licensing Phase.
- Cell phone use while driving is prohibited for drivers under age 19, except in the case of an emergency.
- Texting while driving is prohibited.

### Sanctions

- Limit one court supervision for serious driving offenses.
- Two moving violation convictions occurring within a 24-month period results in a minimum one-month driver's license suspension. Suspension length is determined by the seriousness of the offenses and the driver's prior driving history. An additional driver's license suspension will result for each subsequent moving violation following the initial suspension.
- Suspended drivers are required to pay a \$70 reinstatement fee.

