

***Florida Drivers Guide
For Teens and Parents***

Drive With



Courtesy

Attention

Responsibility

Experience

Did You Know?

Traffic crashes are the number one killer of teenagers (ages 13-19). Two out of every three teenagers killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2004 were males. (U.S. Department of Transportation).

Drivers can receive a citation for **each** passenger less than 18 years of age not properly buckled up.

Florida law prohibits television screens from being visible from the driver's seat. Headphones and headsets may not be worn while driving.

Drivers are required to have their driver license in their immediate possession at all times while driving a motor vehicle, and to display it upon demand of a law enforcement officer.

Alcohol continues to kill more adolescents than all illegal drugs combined.

673 people were killed on Florida roadways in 2005 from alcohol-related crashes (DHSMV).

47,167 people were convicted of DUI in 2005 in the state of Florida (DHSMV).

4,363 people were injured on Florida roadways in 2005 from alcohol-related crashes (DHSMV).

A DUI conviction stays on a criminal history record for life and on a driving record for 75 years.



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Dear Parent or Guardian:

Your teen has finally arrived at a time he or she has been looking forward to - learning to drive! This will be a memorable experience for both of you. As their role model and coach, they will watch what you do and look to you for your guidance and expertise. The law requires you to certify that your teen has spent a minimum of 50 hours behind the wheel when he or she applies for an operator's license. Ten of those hours must be at night. Either you or another responsible licensed adult over 21 years of age must always occupy the front passenger seat closest to the driver.

This booklet contains several tools to assist you with that most important responsibility. There's a skills mastery checklist, a driving log, and a driving certification form.

I encourage you and your teen to thoroughly review Chapter 3 of The Florida Driver's Handbook as it contains valuable detailed information on the driving skills. There are also a number of websites with additional information printed on the back cover. Visit these sites together. Several of them have excellent simulations that will encourage discussion.

Take as long as necessary to ensure that your teen is ready to take the driving test and prepared to navigate the roads solo. Teach them to "Drive With Care - Courtesy, Attention, Responsibility and Experience." Remember, "Experience eliminates errors!"

A stamped postcard is included with this booklet. Please do me a favor and, after a few months, mail it back with your comments. Good Luck!

SANDRA C. LAMBERT, Director
Division of Driver Licenses

Dear Florida Teen:

Congratulations on earning your Learner's License!
Driving is a privilege. I urge you to "Drive with Care –
Courtesy, Attention, Responsibility and Experience."
This booklet contains valuable tools to assist you in
mastering critical driving skills. Be sure to practice all
the skills on the Skills Mastery Checklist.

Please pay close attention to the driving restrictions
and requirements for obtaining your operator's license.
A driving log is provided for recording your supervised
driving. Under Florida law, you must have at least 50
hours of behind the wheel driving experience. Ten of
those hours must be at night.

Be sure to visit our website for more driving and
licensing information -

<http://www.hsmv.state.fl.us/ddl/teendriv.html>.

Sincerely,
SANDRA C. LAMBERT, Director
Division of Driver Licenses

Graduated Driver Licensing System

On July 1, 1996, Florida established the Graduated Licensing System. The program gives young drivers more time to learn all the complex skills needed to drive a vehicle. The program consists of three stages beginning with the Learner's License. Young drivers are required to demonstrate responsible driving behaviors in each stage of licensing before advancing to the next.

Learner's License Privileges and Requirements

- Drivers must always have a licensed driver 21 years of age or older in the closest seat to the right of the driver.
- For the first three months after receiving a Learner's License, driving is limited to daylight hours only.
- After three months, hours are extended to 10 pm.

From Learner's License to Operator's License

To earn an Operator's License, teens must be at least 16 years old **AND** have held a learner's license for at least one year without any traffic convictions.

Required documents

- A Florida Learner's License or a license from another jurisdiction.
- Parent or guardian certification that applicant has at least 50 hours of behind the wheel driving experience, of which 10 hours must be at night.

Testing

Applicants must pass a driving test and perform certain driving maneuvers, or present a waiver from an accepted driver education course. They must also pass a hearing test and a vision test indicating 20/40 (or better) vision in each and both eyes, with or without corrective lenses.

Please refer to the [Florida Driver Handbook](#) for specifics

Privileges and Responsibilities

Once teens obtain an Operator's License their driving privileges are based on their age.

16 years old

- Driving allowed between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m.
- All other times must be accompanied by a licensed driver at least 21 years old occupying the closest seat to the right of the driver, or be traveling to or from work.

17 years old

- Driving allowed between 5 a.m. and 1 a.m.
- All other times must be accompanied by a licensed driver at least 21 years old occupying the closest seat to the right of the driver, or be traveling to or from work.

18 years old

- Driving allowed at all hours of the day without a licensed passenger requirement.

Driving is a Privilege - Don't Lose It

Driving privileges can be restricted or taken away from teens for a number of reasons including:

Traffic conviction while on a Learner's License

Driver cannot apply for an Operator's license for one year from the conviction date or until turning 18 years old, whichever happens first.

6 points on driving record within a 12-month period

Driving limited to "business purposes only" for 12 months or until driver turns 18 years old, whichever happens first. The restriction is extended 90 days for each additional point during the restriction period.

Blood alcohol level of .02% or more

Licenses of drivers under 21 years old administratively suspended for six months. A second offense results in a one-year suspension. The first offense for refusing to submit to testing results in a suspension of twelve months; a second offense results in an 18-month administrative suspension.

School truancy

License suspended until student provides proof of school attendance for 30 consecutive days.

Tobacco products possession conviction

Licenses of drivers under 18 years old are revoked from six months to one year.

Driving is a Privilege - Don't Lose It

This chart shows the number of points assessed to a driver's record when convicted of a traffic offense.

Driving Violation	Points
Speeding	
Less than 15 mph over the speed limit	3
More than 15 mph over the speed limit	4
Speeding resulting in a crash	6
Moving Violations	
Driving during restricted hours	3
Moving violation	3
Moving violation resulting in a crash	4
Reckless driving	4
Improper lane change	3

Skills Mastery Checklist

Use this chart to evaluate your teen's critical general driving skills. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list of all driving maneuvers. Add additional skills found in your driving such as roundabouts and draw bridges.

Mastered	Needs Practice	Skill
		Starting the car – buckles seat belt, checks mirrors, starts smoothly, removes parking brake (if applicable). NOTES:
		Posture – driver at least 10 inches from steering wheel and able to easily see out wind-shield, sits up with knees and elbows slightly bent, both hands on the steering wheel. NOTES:
		Forward movement – uses signal before pulling out into traffic, smooth acceleration, consistent speed, stays within lane, maintains proper distance. NOTES:

Skills Mastery Checklist		
Mastered	Needs Practice	Skill
		Traffic lights – Observes light, slows down and stops smoothly behind line when light is red, stops before turning right on red, starts promptly on green. NOTES:
		Stop signs – Observes sign in advance, slows down smoothly, comes to a complete stop, checks traffic in all directions before proceeding. Proceeds through 4-way stop intersection at proper time. NOTES:
		Yield signs and caution lights – Observes signs and signals, checks traffic flow, adjusts speed to allow those with right of way to proceed. NOTES:
		Lane changes – Signals changes in advance, checks mirrors before making change, changes only where highway markings indicate such change is permissible, allows adequate space without having to quickly accelerate. NOTES:

Skills Mastery Checklist		
Mastered	Needs Practice	Skill
		Use of turn lanes – Signals lane change, checks before changing into lane, maintains adequate distance, obeys traffic signal. NOTES:
		Left and right turns - Signals turn, checks traffic before proceeding, allows ample space on left turns, stays in/turns into correct lane, does not cut across corners. NOTES:
		Backing – Backs slowly, deliberately, and in a straight line or as needed, looks back through rear window. NOTES:
		Parking – Signals turn into space, parks between lines pulls fully into space. NOTES:
		Driver courtesy – Demonstrates patience, does not yell at others, blast horn, or make hand gestures to pedestrians or other vehicle operators in anger or frustration; maintains proper distance between vehicles, does not tailgate or switch lanes aggressively or erratically. NOTES:

Driving Log Instructions

Use this log to keep track of driving experiences. Please keep the following points in mind regarding Learners License drivers: Learners must have at least 50 hours of behind-the-wheel driving experience, of which 10 hours must be at night.

Learners may only drive during daylight hours for the first three months. After that time, they may drive until 10 p.m. Learners must always drive with a licensed driver who is at least 21 years old and occupies the front passenger seat.

Sample Log

Date	Location of Practice	Time of day	Weather Conditions	Time spent	Parent/Guardian Initials	Skills Practiced
4/5/2007	parking lot	10am	dry, sunny	30 minutes	ABC	parking, backing, quick stopping
4/8/2007	neighborhood	3pm	rain, overcast	45 minutes	ABC	obeying street signs, left turns, roundabout
4/12/2007	highway	2pm	overcast	1 hour	ABC	proper following, lane changing, merging, exit

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Additional Teen Driving Resources

For further information on teen driving, please visit the following websites:

Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
www.hsmv.state.fl.us

Ford Motor Company & Governor's Highway Safety Association
www.drivingskillsforlife.com

Toyota & National Safety Council
www.toyotadrivingexpectations.com

AAA, AAMVA, MADD, Daimler Chrysler, & National Safety Council
www.roadreadyteens.org

Nissan & MADD
www.stridesforchange.com

Allstate Insurance Company
www.allstate.com

Cingular Wireless
http://www.cingular.com/sensible_programs/teen_driving

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
www.nhtsa.gov

Produced and distributed by the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. Funding provided by the Florida Department of Transportation.