RULES OF THE ROAD

- It is illegal for learner's permit and intermediate license holders to use any hand-held electronic device while operating a motor vehicle, except in a life-threatening emergency.
- It is illegal for any driver to compose, send, or read messages on any electronic device while driving.
- It is illegal for a person under age 21 to drive after consuming any alcohol. Even prescription medicines or over-the-counter medication taken in the proper dosages can impair you as much as alcohol or illegal drugs. Driving while impaired may result in drivers losing their license for at least 6 months, paying court fines, performing community service, having to attend a treatment program, or facing any combination of these penalties.
- Every driver and front seat passenger must wear a seat belt at all times while the vehicle is being operated. No seat belt use means the driver can be stopped and ticketed without any other offense.

Parent Checklist

Keep this in an easily accessible place for reference!

OKLAHOMA State Department of Health

The Guidance Document lacks the full force and effect of law, except as authorized by law or as incorporated into a contract or binding legal decision. This publication was issued by the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), an equal opportunity employer and provider. A digital file has been deposited with the Publications Clearinghouse of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries in compliance with section 3-114 of Title 65 of the Oklahoma Statutes and is available for download at documents.ok.gov. October 2026

What is GDL?

Graduated driver licensing is a program that allows teens to increase driving privileges as they gain experience behind the wheel.

Why GDL?

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teens in Oklahoma. GDL programs are effective at reducing the crash risk of young drivers on the road. High-risk behaviors, such as carrying teen passengers and nighttime driving, are limited through the GDL program.

GDL applies to...

Drivers between the ages of 15 and 18.

How does GDL work?

GDL has three stages: learner, intermediate, and unrestricted. Teen drivers, ages 15-18, move through each stage based on their age, length of time having a driver license, and experience and training behind the wheel.

What can parents do?

- Extend your teen's behind-the-wheel training time.
- Set the rules of the road.
- Enforce the rules with a parent-teen driving agreement.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT:

The Oklahoma State Department of Health
oklahoma.gov/health/gdl or call 405.426.8440

The Oklahoma Department of Public Safety
oklahoma.gov/dps

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/teen_drivers/

STAGE 1 Learner's Permit

- ☐ Be at least 15 1/2 years old
- ☐ Be receiving instruction in or have completed driver education
- ☐ Have passed written driving exam
- ☐ Have passed vision exam
- ☐ Have passed the reading test required for all 8th grade students

Restrictions: Accompanied by a licensed driver at least 21 years old.

STAGE 2 Intermediate License

- ☐ Have a learner's permit for at least 6 months
- ☐ Have had at least 50 hours behind-the-wheel training (with 10 hours being at night) from a licensed driver at least 21 years old and licensed for at least 2 years
- ☐ Have no traffic convictions on driving record
- ☐ Have passed driving skills exam

Restrictions: May drive only between 5am and 10pm, with the exception of activities related to school, church, or work OR any time when accompanied by a licensed driver at least 21 years old.

STAGE 3 Unrestricted License

- ☐ Have an intermediate license for at least 6 months if driver education has been completed; if not, the driver must have an intermediate license for at least 1 year
- ☐ Have no traffic convictions on driving record

OR

- ☐ Be at least 18 years old
- ☐ Have passed all driving and vision exams

Passenger Restrictions: While in Stage 1 or 2, your teen driver may drive with only one passenger or only people who live with them. However, if a licensed driver (at least 21 years old) is in the car, your teen can drive with an unrestricted number of passengers.

Motor vehicle crashes can happen to anyone - even "good teens." ALL new drivers lack experience and are, therefore, more likely to crash.