

FACTS ABOUT PA'S TEEN DRIVING LAW



Other Teen Driving Requirements

- Learner's permit holders will have to complete a six-month skill-building period before taking the driver's test.
- Permit holders must train with a licensed driver age 21 or older.
- Permits are valid for one year.
- Junior license holders who receive six points on their license or are convicted of a single high-speed violation (driving 26 miles or more over the speed limit) will lose their driving privileges for 90 days.
- Drivers who have clean records and who complete an approved driver education course will be able to receive an unrestricted license at the age of 17 ½.
- Drivers who are 16 and 17 cannot drive between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. Drivers who are out too late will face a \$25 fine and could receive two points on their driving record.
- If a job or charitable work requires teen drivers to be on the road after 11 p.m., they must obtain a note of authorization from a supervisor and carry it with them in the car.

Why is this law on the books?

- One in every seven 16 year-old drivers has a serious crash before his or her 17th birthday.
- The traffic accident rates for 16- to 19-year old drivers are higher than those for any other age group.
- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among 15- to 20-year-olds.
- 16-year-olds have higher crash rates than drivers of any other age.
- Statistics show that 16 and 17-year-old driver death rates increase with each additional passenger.



Pennsylvania's teen-driver licensing law is designed to make sure new drivers have the skills and experience they need before they get an adult license. Act 81 of 2011 makes these requirements tougher and keeps teen drivers safer.

Here's how the law works:

Junior Driver Training

Act 81 increases supervised, behind-the-wheel skill building for learner's permit holders under 18 years of age from 50 hours to 65 hours. Ten of the added hours will consist of nighttime driving, while the other five additional hours must be driven in poor weather conditions. These hours must be completed before junior drivers are authorized to take the driving skills portion of their test.

Junior Driver Passenger Restrictions

Act 81 places increased restrictions on the number and age of passengers which a junior driver license holder may transport. For the first six months after receiving their junior driver's license, a driver is not permitted to have more than one passenger under age 18 who is not an immediate family member in their vehicle unless they are accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. A junior driver's family includes a brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister of the junior driver and adopted or foster children living in the same household as the junior driver.

If a junior driver has not been convicted of a driving violation or been partially or fully responsible for a reportable crash after six months, they may have up to three passengers under age 18 who are not immediate family members without a parent or legal guardian present. If they have any convictions or are partially or fully responsible for a reportable crash while a junior driver, they are once again restricted to one passenger.

Seat Belt Requirements

Drivers and occupants in a vehicle who are under the age of 18 must wear a properly adjusted and fastened seat belt, and children under the age of eight must be securely fastened in a child restraint system. Failure to comply with the new law's seat belt provisions is a primary offense, meaning that a driver can be pulled over and cited solely for that violation.