

# Teen Driver Restrictions

## What You Need to Know



### Key points for newly licensed 16-17 years old:

- You have nighttime driving restrictions Sun.-Thurs., 10 p.m.-6 a.m.; Fri.-Sat., 11 p.m.-6 a.m. (local curfews may be different). If you drive during restricted hours, you could have your driver's license suspended and potential further restrictions.
- For your first 12 months driving unless you turn 18, you can have one passenger under the age of 20 unless the passenger is your sibling, step sibling, child or stepchild. A moving violation will extend this restriction an additional six months and will result in a notification letter sent to your parents or guardians.
- If you receive two moving violations in a 24-month period, you will have your license suspended a minimum of one month. For additional violations, you will receive immediate suspension of your driver's license and may be required to attend remedial driving school and pay a \$70 reinstatement fee.
- You can't use your cellphone, even hands-free and Bluetooth devices, until you are 19 years old, except for emergencies.

### Key points for permit drivers:

- You have nighttime driving restrictions Sun.-Thurs., 10 p.m.-6 a.m.; Fri.-Sat., 11 p.m.-6 a.m. (local curfews may be different).
- You must hold your permit for at least nine months and, if you get a moving violation, you'll have to wait an additional nine months before applying for your driver's license.
- You must practice driving for at least 50 hours, including 10 hours at night, with an adult age 21 or older.
- You can't use your cellphone, even hands-free and Bluetooth devices, except in an emergency.
- You can't apply for a driver's license until you are 18 if you have unresolved traffic citations or drive without a permit.

### Key points for initial full licensing phase 18-20 years old:

- Once you turn 19 years old, you can use your cellphone via Bluetooth or a handsfree device. You still can't text, email or stream behind the wheel. If you're under 19, you still can't use your cellphone, except for emergencies.
- You only have age-related restrictions on number of passengers and nighttime driving hours if you have received extensions due to moving violations.
- If you receive two moving violations in a 24-month period, you will have the same consequences as laid out in your previous driver's licensing phase.

### Key points for all drivers:

- If you are under the age of 21 and are found guilty of violating state or local law relating to illegal consumption, possession, purchase or receipt of alcohol, you may have your license suspended if a motor vehicle is involved.
- If you are convicted of street racing, your driving privileges will be revoked, and law enforcement may impound your vehicle for up to five days.
- If you 16 and older and are interested in joining the Illinois Organ and Tissue Donor Registry, you can sign up [here](#).



# Don't Drive Distracted!

## Put the Phone Away



**In Illinois, you can't use your cellphone in any capacity while driving if you are under 19 years old, except for emergencies.**

If you use your cellphone to text, stream or call, even hands-free and Bluetooth devices, you are driving distracted and putting yourself, passengers and others in danger.

While phone use is one of the top distractions for drivers, other actions such as eating, talking to passengers, helping pets or children, adjusting your radio or streaming service selection, or changing climate controls all put the driver and others at-risk.

According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in 2022 distracted driving caused:

- 2,514 people to be killed in crashes involving a teen driver like **you**
- 8% of fatal crashes
- 12% of injury crashes
- 11% of all police-reported motor vehicle traffic crashes
- 3,308 people to be killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes
- 289,310 people to be injured in motor vehicle traffic crashes
- 621 nonoccupants (pedestrians, bicyclists, and others) to be killed in distraction-affected crashes

Illinois law takes distracted driving seriously, especially when it comes to you as a new driver. If you cause a crash due to distracted driving, you could be required to pay serious fines or potentially serve time behind bars.

