

GDL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a Graduated Driver's License?

Answer:

The Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) consists of three licensing levels:

Level 1 License - a supervised learner's license issued to teen drivers at least 14 years 9 months old.

Level 2 License - an intermediate license that limits the unsupervised nighttime driving for teen drivers at least 16 years old.

Level 3 License - a full-privilege driver license issued to teen drivers at least 17 years old after they have successfully completed all the previous instructional and driving requirements.

What documents will my child need when applying for their Graduated Driver's License?

Answer:

Level 1 License:

Segment 1 Certificate of Completion, proof of a valid Social Security number, U.S. citizenship or legal presence if not a U.S. citizen, identity and at least two documents establishing Michigan residency. A parent or guardian signature is also required upon application. (Residency can be confirmed through documents in the parent's name if the family relationship can be established by other forms of documented proof.)

All documentation is subject to Department of State approval. In some cases, document approval may not occur in the same day and may require an additional visit.

Level 2 License:

Segment 2 Certificate of Completion, Level 1 License (held for six months), proof of a valid Social Security number, legal presence, identity, at least two documents establishing Michigan residency and the Driving Skills Test Certificate. A parent or guardian signature is also required on the application.

Level 3 License:

The Level 3 License is issued automatically to teen drivers who are at least 17 years old (with parental authorization*), held a Level 2 License for at least six months, and been crash- and violation-free during the prior 12 months. Tickets, crashes, suspensions and ignoring license restrictions will extend the time required to obtain a Level 3 License.

GDL ends for all teens when they turn 18 years of age.

What is a driving skills test?

Answer:

A driving skills test consists of two parts, a basic control skills test and an on-road driving test. Driving skills tests are provided by independent third-party testing organizations approved by the Secretary of State.

When is my child eligible to take a driving skills test?

Answer:

A teen driver can apply to take a driving skills test when they:

Are at least age 16

Held a Level 1 License for at least six months

Completed Segment 2 of the driver education course

Completed a minimum 50 hours of supervised driving, which includes a minimum of 10 hours of night driving

What are the new restrictions for Level 2 drivers under the Graduated Driver's Licensing program?

Answer:

Graduated Driver License Level 2 restrictions have changed. Michigan Public Act 124 of 2011 amends the changes that were made in March 2011 and makes these new restrictions effective July 20, 2011. Under the recent changes, GDL Level 2 licensed drivers:

1. Shall not operate a motor vehicle between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. except when:
driving to or from or in the course of employment;

driving to or from an authorized activity; or

accompanied by a parent or legal guardian or a licensed driver 21 years of age or older designated by the parent or legal guardian.

2. Shall not operate a motor vehicle at any time with more than 1 passenger in the vehicle who is less than 21 years of age except:

when the additional passengers are immediate family members;

when driving to or from or in the course of employment;

while going to or from an authorized activity; or

when accompanied by a parent or legal guardian or a licensed driver 21 years of age or older designated by the parent or legal guardian.

Authorized activity means any of the following:

(a) A school or a school-sanctioned event or activity. School means a public or private school, including a home school.

(b) A sporting event or activity, or extracurricular event or activity, that is not school-sanctioned but that is part of an official sports league or association or an official extracurricular club, or that is paid for as a service offered by a business specializing in those events or activities or training for those events or activities.

(c) A class or program of vocational instruction offered by a college, community college, nonprofit association, or unit of government or by a business specializing in vocational training.

(d) An event or activity sponsored by a religious organization that is tax-exempt under federal law.

(e) Transporting an individual in need of immediate emergency care or personal protection to a health care professional, hospital, police station, domestic violence shelter, or public safety location.

My Level 2 teen driver has a school-sanctioned event that will necessitate travel after 10 p.m. Can he/she drive unaccompanied under the authorized activity exception?

Answer:

Yes. Level 2 drivers may drive between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. while going to or from authorized activities. A school or a school-sanctioned event or activity is included in the list of authorized activities. School means a public or private school, including a home school.

My Level 2 teen driver and two other under 21-year-old friends all work at the same location. If their job necessitates travel between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m., can they all ride in one car under the employment exception without a parent, legal guardian, or licensed adult over 21 years old?

Answer:

Yes. A Level 2 driver may drive between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. and they may also have more than 1 passenger in the vehicle who is less than 21 years of age when the person is operating the vehicle in the course of his or her employment or while going to or from employment.

What are the penalties for violating the Level 2 restrictions?

Answer:

A violation of the Level 2 restrictions under the Graduated Driver Licensing program is a civil infraction and will result in two points on the teen's license. A notice of the civil infraction will be sent to designated parent or legal guardian. In addition, the period the teen must have a Level 2 license will be extended for 12 months. The teen will be required to appear for a driver reexamination with possible license suspension and/or additional restrictions imposed.

