

# Missouri

## Graduated Driver License Law

Missouri Graduated Driver License, or GDL law, is a three-step licensing system and the most effective tool in reducing teen crashes.

Some of the highest driving risk factors for teens include driving at night, with multiple passengers, distracted and unbelted.

Here's what you should know.

<b>AGE 15</b>	<b>GDL STEP ONE INSTRUCTION PERMIT</b>
<b>ELIGIBILITY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pass vision, road sign and written test</li><li>Driving privilege cannot be suspended, revoked, cancelled or denied</li><li>Must submit test to MO license office to obtain instruction permit - test form alone is not a valid permit</li></ul>	<b>RULES AND RESTRICTIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Practice at least six months or 182 days with a qualified person</li><li>Under age 16, teen may drive when accompanied in front seat by qualified person at least 25 years of age</li><li>At age 16, teen may drive when accompanied in front seat by qualified person at least 21 years of age</li><li>Log MINIMUM of 40 hours of supervised practice driving, 10 of those hours at night</li><li>Everyone in the vehicle must wear a safety belt</li></ul>
<b>AGE 16</b>	<b>GDL STEP TWO INTERMEDIATE LICENSE</b>
<b>ELIGIBILITY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pass vision, road sign and driving test</li><li>Hold instruction permit for minimum of six months or 182 days</li><li>Driving privilege cannot have been suspended, revoked or denied</li><li>No alcohol convictions in last 12 months</li><li>No traffic convictions in last six months</li></ul>	<b>RULES AND RESTRICTIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>During the first six months, may not transport more than one passenger under 19 years of age who is not a member of your immediate family</li><li>After the first six months, may not transport more than three passengers who are under 19 years of age and not members of your immediate family</li><li>Restricted driving between 1:00-5:00 a.m. except to and from a school activity, job or for an emergency, unless accompanied by a licensed driver 21 years of age</li><li>Everyone in the vehicle must wear a safety belt</li></ul>

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<b>AGE 18</b> (or within 30 days before 18th birthday if otherwise eligible)	<b>GDL STEP THREE UNDER 21 FULL LICENSURE</b>
<b>ELIGIBILITY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Possess valid intermediate license</li> <li>▪ Pass vision and road sign recognition tests</li> <li>▪ No alcohol enforcement contacts or traffic convictions within last 12 months</li> <li>▪ Driving privilege cannot be suspended, revoked, cancelled or denied</li> </ul>	<b>RULES AND RESTRICTIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No restrictions</li> </ul>

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**LAWS FOR DRIVERS UNDER 21 APPLIES TO ALL STEPS OF GDL**

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- Missouri law prohibits drivers 21 years of age and younger from sending, reading or writing an electronic message while behind the wheel, including when stopped in traffic. The fine for texting while driving is \$200. Two points will be assessed on the driving record for each conviction.
- Missouri has a zero alcohol and zero drug tolerance law. Zero tolerance in Missouri means anyone under 21 driving with a BAC of .02 percent or higher will have his or her license suspended for 90 days.

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**FIVE CRITICAL GDL STEPS THAT NEED TO BE ENFORCED**

- 1. Increase practice driving hours.**  
Forty hours of driving practice is the minimum with at least 10 hours occurring at night, but 100 hours is better.
- 2. Limit nighttime driving.**  
Your teen may NOT drive alone between 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m.
- 3. Limit passengers.**  
Only transport one passenger during first six months of independent driving.
- 4. Enforce safety belt use.**  
Ensure the driver and all passengers wear safety belts.
- 5. Create and enforce a Parent-Teen Driving Agreement.**  
Parents and teens work together to establish safe driving rules and the consequences for breaking the rules.

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