

MOTORCYCLES AND MOPEDS

GETTING YOUR MOTORCYCLE ENDORSEMENT

ERNIE BERTOTHY: Welcome to the DMV Infocast, an audio production of the State of Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles. This is Ernie Bertothy, Infocast editor. With us today is **Jan Santini**, a Licensing Agent in the DMV's Branch Operations Division. And Jan is here today to talk about how to go about getting your motorcycle endorsement.

ERNIE BERTOTHY: Well Jan, thank you very much for joining us today to talk about getting your motorcycle endorsement. First, let's explain to everybody exactly what a motorcycle endorsement is because everybody thinks motorcycle license, but we don't actually call it a motorcycle license, we call it an endorsement.

JAN SANTINI: That's correct. That's because you must have a Connecticut License before you obtain a motorcycle endorsement. It's something that's in addition to your regular Connecticut driver's license.

ERNIE: Now, let's talk about going through the steps of getting an endorsement. So I'm walking through the door here at the DMV today and I want to get my motorcycle endorsement. What should I do first?

JAN: First off, you should have read the motorcycle manual so that you came in prepared. You would need to have your driver's license and there will be a \$40 fee to take the actual knowledge test and the eye test. And you would need \$15 to obtain the motorcycle permit once you pass the knowledge test.

ERNIE: Okay. So let's review for a second here. I can come in and I can actually take a knowledge and vision test, the day of, no appointment needed. I could come in and take those two tests and that would enable me to get a learner's permit; is that correct?

JAN: That's correct.

ERNIE: Okay. Now let's talk about the significance of getting the learner's permit, essentially the next step in the process. I have a learner's permit in my hand. Now, what can and can I not do once I have that permit because there are restrictions, Jan, correct?

JAN: That's correct. The permit allows you to ride on the state roads so that you could practice and feel comfortable with your motorcycle. There are some things that you cannot do. You cannot ride at night, you cannot carry passengers, and you cannot go on limited access highways. You must also always wear your helmet and eye protection.

ERNIE: And of course, we always ask our listeners to refer to our website because that list sometimes can change depending on the law, so to get a precise up to the minute list of restrictions they should always refer to the website.

JAN: Yes, they should.

ERNIE: Now, I have my permit. I've done what I had to do. And now I'm ready to come in and take a skills road test with the DMV. Now talk about how that process works to actually schedule the exam and then finally take the exam.

JAN: Yes. You may call our phone center to schedule an appointment or you can stop in and make the appointment. Paying the \$40 for your permit tests includes the skills tests with Motor Vehicle. So the day of your appointment you would come in with your driver's license, your motorcycle permit, a good, legal roadworthy motorcycle, current registration and insurance.

ERNIE: No photocopy on the insurance card.

JAN: No photocopy or faxes.

ERNIE: On the insurance card, correct?

JAN: That's correct.

ERNIE: So I come in and I take the test and I pass the test, the road test. So what happens next? How do you go about getting the endorsement?

JAN: You'll come back in to the office, once you've passed. You'll bring in your slip, they'll call you up, and you'll have your motorcycle license.

ERNIE: And you'll be good to go?

JAN: And you'll be good to go. And then you still have a few rules after you obtain your motorcycle endorsement. You'll not be able to carry passengers for six months.

ERNIE: So there are restrictions initially after you get your motorcycle endorsement.

JAN: That's correct.

ERNIE: People should be cognizant of that and they will be informed of those restrictions when they come in to get their endorsement?

JAN: That's correct.

ERNIE: Now, there is a caveat to this process. There is actually another avenue that people can go if they so choose which would eliminate that coming into the DMV to take the road test. Can you talk about the other avenue that a person can take?

JAN: Yes. There is a certified rider course that they may take. That course allows you to either go to the course without a permit.

ERNIE: A learner's permit, correct?

JAN: Correct. You don't need to permit for the course itself, unless you would like to practice out on the road in between your course. You can wait until after you pass the certified course and come in with your certificate. Either way you will still have to take the knowledge test and the eye test at Motor Vehicle.

ERNIE: Okay. So just to be clear, I can go to the motorcycle course, this certified rider education course let's call it, and take the course and then come to DMV, pay the fees, take the knowledge and vision test, and go that route. Or I can do just the opposite, come in first, take the knowledge and vision, and then go to that course we just spoke about. Either way they have to come in to us to take the knowledge law test and the vision test.

JAN: That's correct, and that the only thing that will be waived will be the skills test here at Motor Vehicle.

ERNIE: But, you don't have to take the rider education course; isn't that correct?

JAN: That's correct.

ERNIE: Now, there's a caveat to that, Jan. Some people do in fact have to take a certified rider education course, and who are they?

JAN: 16 and 17-year-olds will need to first obtain a Connecticut driver's license. They will have to have parental consent to ride a motorcycle and they will have to do the rider course as well as take the knowledge test here at Motor Vehicle.

ERNIE: So they have to take that test no matter what?

JAN: Yes, they do. And they can take the knowledge test either before the rider course or they can wait until after they pass the rider course and come in and take the test at that time.

ERNIE: Okay. So customers, for the most part, have some flexibility on how they can go about getting their endorsement, but we know for sure they do have to come in to us and they do have to take the knowledge test and have to take the vision test.

JAN: That's correct.

ERNIE: Okay, Jan. Thank you for clearing up how you go about getting your motorcycle endorsement here in Connecticut. And of course, if anybody has any further questions regarding this process, we do refer them to our website.

JAN: That's correct.

ERNIE: Well, Jan, thank you very much for joining us today.

JAN: You're welcome.

ERNIE BERTOTHY: I'm Ernie Bertothy, Infocast editor, and you've been listening to an Infocast produced by the State of Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles. Thank you for listening.