

Connecticut State Police

T I P S

Topics in Public Safety

TEEN DRIVING LAWS

Driving well takes years of skill and experience on the road. That's why Connecticut law has been updated to ensure that new drivers concentrate on honing their skills each time they get behind the wheel.

State law is aimed at keeping new drivers and their passengers – as well as other cars and drivers on the road – safe and secure.

16- and 17-year-olds issued drivers' licenses on or after August 1, 2008:

- If issued a learner's permit on or after August 1, 2008, teens must complete 40 hours of on-the-road instruction. The parent or legal guardian will also be required to attend two hours of the mandatory eight-hour course on safe driving practices.
- Are prohibited from operating a motor vehicle between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. *Exceptions include traveling to work, school or religious activities; medical necessity; serving as a driver in a safe ride program; or carrying out duties or responding to an emergency as an active member of a local volunteer fire, ambulance or EMS department.*
- Are prohibited, for the first six months after receiving a license, from transporting passengers except a licensed driving instructor or other person giving instruction who has held a license for at least four years, or a parent or legal guardian who holds a valid operator's license. *Exceptions made for those members of volunteer fire or ambulance company responding to an emergency.*
- Are prohibited, for the second six months (months seven through twelve) after the issuance of a license, from having any passengers with the exception of those listed above or any other members of the operator's immediate family. *Exceptions made for those members of volunteer fire or ambulance company responding to an emergency.*
- Will have a license immediately suspended for 48 hours if he or she is in violation of any of the above laws. New drivers will also have their

licenses suspended if they are charged with speeding 20 mph or more over the speed limit, reckless driving, racing and operating under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

16- and 17-year-olds issued drivers' licenses on or before July 31, 2008:

- Are required to have a learners' permit for six months.
- Are required to have a minimum of 20 hours of behind the wheel, on-the-road instruction.
- May, during the first three months of holding a drivers' license, transport a licensed parent or a person at least 20 years old with an active license for at least four years. During the second three months, they may also transport a member of their immediate family.
- Are prohibited from operating a motor vehicle between 12 midnight and 5 a.m., unless they are traveling to work or to school or religious activities, or if there is a medical necessity. *Does not apply to active members of local volunteer fire companies or emergency medical service organizations who are responding to an emergency or carrying out duties as a member, or to those who are drivers in a Safe Ride Program sponsored by the American Red Cross, the Boy Scouts of America or other national public service organizations.*

All 16- and 17-year-old licensed drivers and permit holders:

- Are prohibited from using a cellphone or other mobile electronic device (i.e. iPod, MP3 players, etc.) while driving (including a cellphone with a hands-free device).
- Are required to wear a seat belt. Any passengers in a vehicle being operated by a driver under the age of eighteen must wear seat belts. This includes both front and back seat passengers.



Compliments of:

The Connecticut State Police
Department of Public Safety
Public Information Office
1111 Country Club Road
Middletown, CT 06457
(860) 685-8230
www.ct.gov/dps

**NEW
DRIVER**