Drinking and Driving

Administrative Per Se Penalties
The administrative license suspension for a 16- or 17-year-old who drives under the influence of alcohol will be at least one year if he or she had an elevated blood alcohol content equal to or over .02. If the 16- or 17-year-old refuses to submit to the test, the suspension will be 18 months. This law applies to both public roads and private property. Possession of alcohol by a minor on private or public property can also bring a license suspension.

Youthful Offender Status

Someone under 18 who commits the following cannot be considered a youthful offender:

- Negligent homicide with a motor vehicle.
- Evading responsibility following an accident that results in a death or serious injury.
- Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Any youth adjudicated as a youthful offender for the following offenses shall have their records disclosed to DMV for the purposes of imposing a driver's license suspension:

- Reckless driving.
- Operating while under suspension.
- Evading responsibility following an accident involving property damage or physical injury.
- Street racing.
- Disregarding a police officer's signal to stop.

This brochure is supported by:

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FROM REID'S DAD
A BLOG FOR PARENTS OF TEEN DRIVERS

Mandatory Suspensions for 16- and 17-Year-Old Drivers

The following explains the suspension violations for 16- and 17-year-old drivers. DMV will suspend the driver's license or learner's permit of a 16- or 17-year-old for any conviction of violating a teen driving restriction, speeding, reckless driving, street racing or using a cell phone or text messaging device while driving.

VIOLATION	1ST OFFENSE	2ND OFFENSE	3RD OFFENSE
Graduated Driver's License (GDL) violations under §14-36g(a) including: Passenger restrictions; Driving curfew; Operating public service vehicle or vanpool; More passengers than seat belts; Carrying passengers on a motorcycle less than six months after obtaining a motorcycle endorsement;	30-day license suspension, $175 license restoration fee, court fines.	(For all 2nd and subsequent offenses) 6-month license suspension or until age 18, whichever is longer; $175 license restoration fee, court fines.	
USE OF CELL PHONE/ TEXT MESSAGING §14-296aa	30-day license suspension, $175 license restoration fee, court fines.	90-day license suspension, $175 license restoration fee, court fines.	6-month license suspension, $175 license restoration fee, court fines
SPEEDING (more than 20 mph over speed limit) §14-219	60-day license suspension, $175 license restoration fee, court fines.	90-day license suspension, $175 license restoration fee, court fines.	6-month license suspension, $175 license restoration fee, court fines.
RECKLESS DRIVING §14-222 (a)	6-month license suspension, $175 license restoration fee, court fines or imprisonment of not more than 30 days, or both.	1-year suspension, $175 license restoration fee, court fines or imprisonment of not more than one year, or both.	1-year suspension, $175 license restoration fee, court fines or imprisonment of not more than one year, or both.
STREET RACING §14-224(c)	6-month suspension, $175 license restoration fee, court fines or imprisonment of not more than 1 year, or both.	1-year suspension, $175 license restoration fee, court fines or imprisonment of not more than 1 year, or both.	1-year suspension, $175 license restoration fee, court fines or imprisonment of not more than 1 year, or both.

You're **NOT** Just Along for the Ride
Safety Is **EVERYONE'S** Responsibility

Safety Tips and Laws for Parents, Young Teen Drivers and Their Passengers

ct.gov/teendriving

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Revised October 2014

Info for Parents, Teen Drivers and Their Passengers

With tighter restrictions on teen drivers and the need for them and their passengers to be safe, below are some important reminders for teens, parents, passengers and their communities:

Managing The Driving Experience

- **Crashes Kill Teens:** Motor vehicle crashes are the #1 cause of death for 15-19 year-old teenagers.
- **Brain Development:** Research shows that the portion of the brain that assesses risk and danger does not fully develop until the mid 20's.
- **Passenger Restrictions:** Enforce at home the state laws on passenger restrictions for newly licensed drivers. Crash risk goes up when teens drive with other teens in the car. This risk also increases with the number of passengers, whether siblings, family or friends; in the vehicle.
- **Passengers and Drivers Need to Keep a Vehicle Safe:** Both can contribute to a crash. Passengers need to exit the vehicle if they think it the driver is operating unsafely and passengers need to do their part to encourage safe operation of the vehicle.
- **Who Is Driving My Teen?** Parents need to know who is driving their teen and the extent of his or her driving experience. Did that driver gain driving experience under Connecticut's graduated driver licensing law or did the driver bypass this requirement and get a license at 18 years old?
- **Restrict Night Driving:** Fatal crashes are more likely to occur at night. Young drivers are at higher risk for drowsy driving, which causes thousands of crashes each year. Enforce the state curfew.
- **It's the Law - Require Your Teen to Buckle Up:** Teens have the lowest rate of seatbelt use.
- **No Drinking and Driving:** Connecticut has a **Zero-Tolerance Law** for teens drinking and driving. Even one drink impairs a teen's driving ability and increases the risk of a crash.
- **Distracted Driving:** It is against the law for teens to drive distracted as well as use any mobile electronic devices while driving.
- **Purposeful Driving:** Parents need to continuously monitor and guide their teenagers' driving activity, and limit their travel to purposeful driving. Once teens begin to engage in joy-riding, their crash-risk increases dramatically, and more so with each additional teenage passenger.
- **Health Care Professionals:** Pediatricians, family physicians and other health care professionals need to stress both driver and passenger safety during a teenager's wellness visits and encourage the use of parent-teen driving contracts that set the driving rules and consequences for violations in advance.
- **Vehicle Selection Matters:** Avoid having your teen drive high-performance vehicles or older model vehicles that lack improved safety technologies.

Requirements for 16- and 17-Year-Old Drivers

Learner's Permit:

Required Tests

1. Applicants need to pass a 25-question knowledge test to obtain a permit.
2. Applicants need to pass a road skills test to obtain a license.

Training Requirements

New permit holders need at least 40 hours of behind-the-wheel training before applying for their driver's license.

New permit holders need to complete an eight-hour safe driving course. Also, parents or legal guardians are required to complete a two-hour class with the permit holder concerning teen driving laws.

Passenger Restrictions

For the entire time a driver holds a learner's permit, he or she may not have any passengers except for either:

- A licensed driving instructor giving instruction and others accompanying that instructor.
- One person who is providing instruction and is at least 20 years old, has held a driver's license for four or more consecutive years and whose license has not been suspended during the four years prior to training. Parents or legal guardian may accompany the instructor.

Newly Licensed:

Curfew

11 p.m. to 5 a.m. - unless the teen is traveling for employment, school, religious activities, medical necessity, or if the individual is an assigned driver in the Safe Ride Program.

Passenger Restrictions

During the first six months the newly licensed driver may not have any passengers in the vehicle except for:

- A licensed driving instructor.

  OR

- His or her parents or legal guardian, at least one of whom holds a valid driver's license.

  OR

- One person who is at least 20 years old, has held a driver's license for four or more consecutive years and whose license has not been suspended during the four years preceding the time of being transported. Parents or legal guardian may accompany the instructor.

During the second six months (months seven through twelve) the only additional passengers allowed in the vehicle are members of the driver's immediate family.

(Please Note: These passenger and curfew restrictions do not apply to active members of a volunteer fire company or department, a volunteer ambulance service or company, or an emergency medical service organization who are responding to an emergency call or carrying out duties as an active member, or if the individual is an assigned driver in the Safe Ride Program.)

For All Learner's Permit and 16- and 17-Year-Old Licensed Drivers

They may NOT:

- Transport more passengers than the number of seatbelts in the vehicle.
- Operate any vehicle that requires a public passenger transportation permit or a vanpool vehicle.
- Use a cell phone (even if it is hands-free) or other mobile electronic devices while driving.
- Transport any passenger on a motorcycle for six months after the issuance of a motorcycle endorsement.

Drivers 16- and 17-years old and each of their passengers are required to wear a seat belt. If either the driver or the passenger fails to wear the seat belt, each could be cited for a seat belt violation and fined $75.

48-Hour License Suspension for Certain Violations

16- or 17-year-olds who commit certain moving violations will have their drivers' licenses seized by a police officer and will be suspended for 48 hours. In addition, the police officer is authorized to remove the vehicle from the scene.

Driver Retraining

Certain offenses will trigger participation in the driver retraining program. Anyone age 24 or younger who commits two or more moving violations or suspension violations must complete the DMV-certified driver retraining program. After completing the operator retraining program, anyone becoming a repeat offender within 36 months faces a license suspension.