

INSTRUCTION PERMIT

LICENSING FOR DRIVERS UNDER AGE 18

Iowa has a graduated driver's license (GDL) system for drivers under age 18. GDL includes three steps that provide experience to improve driving skills. **These steps include:**



YOU ARE HERE

An instruction permit is the first step on the road to a driver's license. Driving is an adult responsibility that you need to take seriously to keep you and others safe and protect your privilege to drive.

HOW DO I GET AN INSTRUCTION PERMIT?

- **Be at least 14 years old.**
- **Your parent or guardian must provide written consent** either in-person at a driver's license issuance site or complete the Parent's/Guardian's Written Consent Form (form 430018) available at any driver's license issuance site or by searching the form number at: <https://forms.iowadot.gov/BrowseForms.aspx>.
- **Pass the written and vision test.**
- **Provide a primary form of identification, proof of residency, and proof of Social Security number.** Create a list of documents to take with you to the driver's license issuance site at: www.iowadot.gov/mvd/realid/success.html

WHAT CAN I DO WITH THIS PERMIT?

Drive at any time with adult supervision.

Adult supervision means your parent, guardian, custodian, an immediate family member at least 21 years of age, a driver education instructor, or a person at least 25 years with written permission from your parent, guardian, or custodian. The supervising adult must possess a valid driver's license.

WHAT CAN'T I DO WITH THIS PERMIT?

- **Drive without adult supervision.**
- **Use a cell phone, smartphone, tablet, or other electronic communication or entertainment device while driving.** This doesn't apply to equipment permanently installed in your vehicle.
- **Carry more passengers than the number of seat belts in your vehicle,** even when driving with adult supervision.

HOW DO I ADVANCE TO THE NEXT STEP: AN INTERMEDIATE LICENSE?

- **Be at least 16 years old.**
- **Complete an Iowa-approved driver education course.**
- **Must hold an instruction permit for a total of 12 months and maintain a clean driving record for at least six consecutive months immediately before applying for an intermediate license.**
- **Your parent or guardian must provide written consent.** Either in-person at a driver's license issuance site or complete the Parent's/Guardian's Written Consent Form (form 430018) available at any driver's license issuance site or by searching the form number at: <https://forms.iowadot.gov/BrowseForms.aspx>.
- **Complete 20 hours of supervised driving including any driving you completed in driver's education.** At least two of those hours must be between sunset and sunrise.

WHAT IF I MESS UP?

Your permit may be suspended if you are convicted of a traffic violation (examples include, but are not limited to, speeding, reckless driving, failure to obey a traffic signal), violate any of the restrictions on your permit, or are involved in a crash you caused or contributed to.

- **First conviction, violation, or crash:** Your permit may be suspended or you may receive a safety advisory letter.
- **Second conviction, violation, or crash:** Your permit will be suspended for 30 days.

Any time you have a conviction, violation, or crash, or your license gets suspended or revoked, your six-month period to have a clean driving record will start over.

MAKE GOOD DECISIONS

Get as much practice as possible in a variety of situations under the supervision of a qualified and responsible adult.

Drive at a safe speed, keep your eyes on the road, and your hands on the wheel. Put phones and other distractions away.

Be sure your passengers are wearing seat belts and limit the number of passengers, even if your license doesn't have a passenger restriction – every passenger you add drastically increases your risk of being in a crash.

Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of teen deaths – don't let it happen to you and your friends!

Federal and state laws prohibit employment and/or public accommodation discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, gender identity, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran's status. If you believe you have been discriminated against, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at 800-457-4416 or Iowa Department of Transportation's affirmative action officer. If you need accommodations because of a disability to access the Iowa Department of Transportation's services, contact the agency's affirmative action officer at 800-262-0003.