

Graduated Driver Licensing

What parents and teens need to know

Delaware's Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) program is designed to give young drivers additional practical driving experience under the safest possible conditions, motivating them to drive responsibly and graduate to the next level.

The four steps to obtaining a license

You must be at least 16 years old to begin the GDL program and at least 17 years old to obtain a Class D unrestricted license.

- 1. Pass a state-approved driver education program and receive a Blue Certificate. Take Blue Certificate, original birth certificate and social security card to the DMV and apply for the Level One Learner's Permit (requires an eye exam, a \$12.50 application fee and your sponsor's signature).**
- 2. Six months of supervised driving at all times with the Delaware Level One Learner's Permit (your Class D license sealed in a plastic folder), as well as sponsor certification of 50 driving hours, 10 of which include nighttime driving.**
- 3. Six months of unsupervised driving during daytime hours and supervised driving during nighttime hours (10 p.m.–6 a.m.) with the Delaware Level One Learner's Permit. Exceptions for church, work and some school activities exist.**
- 4. Level One Learner's Permit will automatically convert to a Class D license upon completion of 12 months of required driving experience. Remove license from the sealed packet. Any amount of time the permit is suspended or revoked does not count towards computing the 12 months of required driving time.**



Rules & Penalties

- You must always be in possession of your permit when driving a motor vehicle.
- Your driving supervisor must be either your parent/guardian or a licensed driver at least 25 years old who has held a Class D license for a minimum of five years.
- No passengers other than the driving supervisor and one other non-related passenger may be in your vehicle during the first year.
- The driving supervisor must sit in the front passenger seat.
- The driver and all passengers must wear seat belts. You face a ticket and suspension of your permit for 2 months if caught not buckled up.
- You cannot use your cell phone while driving, except in the case of an emergency. You will lose your license for a month if you are caught on your phone while driving.
- Violating Level One Learner's Permit restrictions results in a 2-month permit suspension for the first offense; a 4-month suspension for each additional offense. Any amount of time your permit is suspended does not count toward computing your required 12 months of driving on your permit, and will delay your ability to get your unrestricted license.



The sponsor

- Must sign the license application and is the final authority to determine if a minor is capable of handling the responsibility of operating a motor vehicle, as well as designating who may supervise the minor driver.
- Can withdraw endorsement at any time, thereby canceling the license of the minor driver until the driver reaches age 18.
- Helps develop the new driver's skills and ability to avoid being involved in a crash.
- Is liable for all damages if their child causes a crash. (May be liable for damages even if their teen driver is operating someone else's car.)

**For more information, visit www.dmv.de.gov
or www.state.de.us/highway.**