



# Graduated Driver License (GDL) Laws



**Purpose:** Graduated driver license laws allow teens to gain driver experience under low risk conditions and **phase in to full driving privileges** as teens become more mature and develop their driving skills.

**Effectiveness:** Studies have consistently shown a reduction in the number of fatal and severe injury crashes involving teen drivers after GDL laws have been enacted. **Lives are saved!**

## The Law: California's Graduated Driver Licensing

A three-stage driver's licensing program for anyone under age 18. **Each** stage must be passed before progressing to the next stage to obtain licensure.

### Stage 1: Learner's Permit

- Must be 15 1/2 years old
- Complete DMV application signed by parent or guardian
- Hold instruction permit for at least 6 months
- Driver must be supervised by an adult 25 or older at all times. Adult must have valid California Driver's license
- Complete 50 hours of driving practice, 10 hours must be at night
- Must maintain a clean driving record

### Stage 2: Provisional License

- Be at least 16 years old
- Pass behind the wheel driving test
- For the first 12 months (or until age 18): Unless accompanied by licensed driver 25 years or older
  - 1) No passengers under age 20
  - 2) No driving between 11:00p.m.to 5a.m.
- Prohibits use of cellular devices
- Must maintain clean driving record

### Stage 3: Full Driving Privileges

- Complete first 2 stages
- Become 18 years old
- Have no outstanding DMV or court restrictions

For further information contact California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov) or 800-777-0133.

For more information call Butte County Public Health Department, (530) 891-2732

Traveling Safely Through Life ● Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration