



SunCoast Traffic School

A Florida Driver Training Services Company

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Teen Driving: Just The Facts—You Decide

You know the risks, you want the responsibility and instead of being treated like a kid you want the cold hard facts.

As a responsible young driver, we hope that you'll use this information to make informed decisions about your abilities, potential distractions and ways to keep you and your friends safe on the road.

To The Point...

- Over 74,000 young people die or are injured each year by not wearing seatbelts
- In their first year of driving 1 in 5 16-year-old drivers has an accident
- Attitude is one of the most important factors in safe driving
- Two-thirds of teen passenger deaths are in vehicles driven by other teenagers
- Over one-third of teen fatal crashes are speed related
- According to the California Office of Traffic Safety, a 16-year-old is 20 times more likely to be killed in a crash than an adult
- The risk of a fatal crash is three times greater at night, for every mile driven
- Practicing in all weather conditions is the only preparation for severe weather driving
- One-third of all crashes are at intersections
- Underage drinking and drug use is illegal

Source: GEICO Insurance Company

In the United States, teenagers drive less than all but the oldest people, but their numbers of crashes and crash deaths are disproportionately high. In the United States, the fatal crash rate per mile driven for 16-19 year-olds is nearly 3 times the rate for drivers ages 20 and over. Risk is highest at ages 16-17. In fact, the fatal crash rate per mile driven is nearly twice as high for 16-17 year-olds as it is for 18-19 year-olds.

Young drivers tend to overestimate their driving abilities and underestimate the dangers on the road. Graduated driver licensing (GDL) laws reduce this risk by making sure teens gradually build up driving experience under lower-risk conditions as they mature and develop skills. That means limiting nighttime driving, restricting teen passengers and making sure teens get lots of supervised practice. Graduated licensing has reduced teen crashes 10-30 percent on average.

All 50 states and the District of Columbia have a three-stage GDL system. The United States doesn't have a national GDL law. State lawmakers decide what provisions to adopt and how to enforce them. Institute research has show that states with the strongest laws enjoy bigger reductions in teen driver deaths than states with weak laws. Some states make teens wait a little longer before they get their learner permits and full-privilege licenses. This also saves lives.

Source: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety



Prior to obtaining a permit to drive or a 1st time drivers license, a state approved 4-hour "Traffic Law & Substance Abuse Education" (TLSAE) course (aka..."Drug & Alcohol Course") must be completed. Upon completion, the candidate must take and successfully pass the Florida State Permit Test dealing with road signs and traffic laws.

SunCoast Traffic School provides the TLSAE course in classroom and online while also providing access to the permit test (for persons under the age of 18) and other relevant information via our website at www.sctsfl.com. Professional driving lessons for new and mature drivers are also available.

The following must be taken with you to the DMV to obtain your permit/license:

- Original birth certificate - raised seal
- Original Social Security Card
- 2 documents with proof of residential address
- Parent/Legal Guardian must sign a consent form
- Applicant must pass a vision test

Persons 15 - 17 must hold their permit for 1 year or turn 18 before taking the road skills test for their license.

TO GET A LEARNERS LICENSE YOU MUST:

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| Have a minimum age of | 15 - learners permit holders may not drive after sunset for the first three months and thereafter may not drive after 10 p.m. |
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BEFORE GETTING A LICENSE OR RESTRICTED LICENSE YOU MUST:

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| Have a mandatory holding period of | 12 months |
| Have a minimum supervised driving time of | 50 hours, 10 of which must be at night |
| Have a minimum age of | 16 |

RESTRICTIONS DURING INTERMEDIATE OR RESTRICTED LICENSE STAGE:

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| Nighttime restrictions | 11 p.m.-6 a.m. for 16 year-olds; 1 a.m.-5 a.m. for 17 year-olds |
| Passenger restrictions (family members excepted unless otherwise noted) | none |

MINIMUM AGE AT WHICH RESTRICTIONS MAY BE LIFTED:

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|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Nighttime restrictions | until age 18 (min. age: 18) |
| Passenger restrictions | none |

Source: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety