



The Reality of the Risk

Think about how much time your child may have spent learning to play a sport or an instrument, and what those first games and notes were like compared to their level of experience today. It takes practice, confidence and maturity for kids of all ages to learn new skills. But, driving a car is different for teens, because the stakes are high and the risks are real:

- Drivers between the ages of 16-19 are more likely to be in a motor vehicle crash than other age groups.
- Motor vehicle crashes are one of the leading causes of death in teens.
- In Wisconsin alone, approximately 50 teens are killed in car crashes every year.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Wisconsin Department of Transportation



Graduated Driver Licensing Reduces the Risk

Becoming a safe, skilled driver takes lots of practice behind the wheel. Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) laws reduce the risk by making sure teens gradually build driving experience with supervision before getting their licenses and restricting driving after they are licensed. All states have some elements of graduated licensing. In addition, parents are encouraged to go above and beyond the legal minimum when setting rules for their teen drivers.

CURRENT WISCONSIN GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING LAW

	Instruction Permit	Probationary License	Regular License
To get one	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimum age is 15 1/2 years old - Enrolled in school (or graduated/GED) - Enrolled in Driver Education - Have an adult sponsor - Pass the knowledge test, sign test and vision screening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimum age is 16 years old - Proof of approved Driver Education course completion - Have a minimum of 30 hours of supervised driving with a qualified adult (10 hours must be at night) - Pass the driving skills test - Have an adult sponsor - Have no conviction for moving traffic violation for six months prior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must be at least 19 years old - Drivers younger than 21 years old must maintain absolute sobriety. - Issued when a driver completes the first renewal, generally two to three years after receiving the Probationary License.
To drive with one	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If younger than 18, a qualified adult must be in the front passenger seat at all times. <p>Qualified adult: a person with two years of driving experience who holds a valid, regular license and sits in the front seat. If this person is an instructor, parent/legal guardian or spouse, they must be at least 19 years of age; other adults must be 21 years of age.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the qualified adult is not a qualified instructor, parent, guardian or spouse, the adult must be designated in writing by your parent or guardian prior to accompanying you while driving a vehicle. - Additional allowed passengers are immediate family members only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For the first nine months or until age 18: - From 5 a.m.-midnight: drivers may be unsupervised and without destination limits. Passengers allowed are immediate family, one non-family member, and one qualified adult. - From midnight-5 a.m.: drivers may be unsupervised only when driving between home, work, and school. A qualified adult must be in the passenger seat for all other trips. Passengers allowed are immediate family, one non-family member, and one qualified adult. - Restrictions are extended 6 months for moving violations or any violation of restrictions. - Demerit points for moving violations are doubled after the first offense. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drivers are responsible for understanding and following all of the driving laws including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seat belt use • Texting and cell phone use • Distracted driving • Impaired driving • Work zones • Child passenger safety

By strengthening Wisconsin's GDL law further, it is estimated that crashes involving teens can be reduced by 20% and fatal crashes by 40%. (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety)