Suspensions/Restrictions

• If a probationary driver license holder under the age of 17 is convicted of having committed one moving violation during the first six months of license issuance, the person must be accompanied by a parent or guardian whenever operating a motor vehicle during the six-month period commencing on the date on which the person pleads guilty to, or is convicted of, the moving violation or until the person attains the age of 17, whichever comes first.

• Effective April 6, 2009, a probationary driver license holder placed under their parent/guardian restriction may petition the court for one time only, limited driving privileges.

• A person’s temporary permit or probationary license can be suspended for periods of up to one year if the person is convicted of multiple moving violations or if the person is convicted of any alcohol-related offense.

• A person whose temporary permit or probationary license is suspended has to meet a number of requirements before their permit or license can be returned, including completion of a juvenile driver improvement program and retaking the driver’s examination.

• A driver under the age of 21 with a Blood Alcohol Content level of .02 to .07 faces penalties under a charge called Operating a Vehicle after Underage Alcohol Consumption (OVUAC).

Full License Eligibility

• Successful completion of the probationary license requirements.

• The licensee meets the minimum age requirement of 18.

• For additional information, please call the Driver Training Program at (614) 466-3250 or visit www.drivertraining.ohio.gov.

www.publicsafety.ohio.gov

OTS 0172 6/11
Crashes are the leading cause of death among teens, accounting for more than one third of deaths among 16 to 18 year olds. Research shows that young, inexperienced drivers pose serious safety threats not just to themselves, but to other drivers who share the road. Statistics show teen drivers are involved in more crashes than any other age group. They are also found at fault in those crashes at a significantly higher rate than older drivers.

The problems contributing to these higher crash rates include driving inexperience and lack of adequate driving skills; excessive driving during nighttime hours; risk-taking behavior; poor decision making; and impaired driving.

To address these problems, traffic safety researchers developed graduated driver licensing (GDL) to extend the learning process for young novice drivers, allowing more time to develop safe driving habits and gain knowledge, experience and skills – skills that last a lifetime and save lives. Studies show adopting GDL laws can lead to a substantial decrease of teen crashes from 20 to 50 percent.

Ohio’s (GDL) law, fully enacted on January 1, 1999, and amended on January 4, 2007 established a three-stage licensing program:

**Stage 1: Temporary permit**
- A temporary permit can be obtained at age 15½ in Ohio. The permit is valid for one year.
- Pass knowledge and vision tests at a driver license exam station. A list of these locations can be found at www.bmv.ohio.gov.
- After you have successfully passed your vision and knowledge exams, you may obtain a receipt with a confirmation number to present at a deputy registrar agency to obtain your temporary instruction permit identification card within 60 days of passing your knowledge exam.
- When driving with a temporary permit, you must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or licensed driving instructor seated in the front passenger seat until you turn 16 years old. Then, you must drive with a licensed driver age 21 or older seated in the front passenger seat.
- Drivers must carry their temporary instruction permit identification card (TIPIC) with them while operating a vehicle.
- The number of vehicle occupants is limited to the total number of originally installed safety belts. All occupants must be wearing safety belts when the vehicle is being driven by a temporary permit holder.
- Permit holders under the age of 18 are prohibited from driving a motor vehicle between midnight and 6 a.m., unless accompanied by a parent, guardian or legal custodian who holds a valid license.

**Stage 2: Probationary license**
- In order to be eligible for a probationary license, a temporary permit holder must complete the driver training requirements noted above.
- The driver must be at least 16 years old and must have held a temporary permit for at least six months.
- The driver must also successfully complete the Ohio driving and maneuverability tests prior to issuance of a probationary license.
- 16-year-old license holders are prohibited from operating a motor vehicle between midnight and 6 a.m., unless accompanied by a parent or guardian, with the following exceptions: The license holder is driving to or from work (must have in immediate possession written documentation from the employer), to or from a school activity, or in an emergency situation.
- Licensed drivers who are 17 years old are restricted from driving between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m., unless accompanied by a parent or guardian, with the same exceptions as above.
- License holders who are 16 years old shall not operate a motor vehicle with more than one person who is not a family member occupying the vehicle unless accompanied by a parent, guardian or legal custodian.
- At the age of 17, the number of vehicle occupants is limited to the total number of originally installed safety belts. All occupants must be wearing safety belts when the vehicle is being driven by a probationary license holder.
- The probationary license is valid until age 18.