

THE LAWS

Graduated Driver's License Law

GDL is a system designed for drivers under age 18 (Junior Drivers) to receive senior driving privileges in 3 stages,

- Learners permit
- Junior license
- Full senior license



General GDL Junior Driver Rules

- 50 practice hours; 15 hrs at night
- No electronic devices while driving (including hands-free)
- Must wait 6 months after obtaining learners permit before taking road test
- Must bring completed DMV Form 262, signed by parent/guardian to road test

General GDL Junior Driver Restrictions

- No more than 1 passenger under age 21 unless parent, guardian, or driving instructor is also in vehicle (Exception: immediate family member)
- When supervision of Junior Driver is required, only supervising driver may ride in front seat
- Supervising driver must be at least 21 years old and have valid driver license

Refer to NYS DMV website for all Young Drivers for Long Island regional restrictions

NYS Seatbelt Law

Senior Drivers:

- Front Seat – Everyone must wear a seatbelt
- Back Seat – Everyone under age 16 must wear a seatbelt
- All children under age 8: Must ride in federally – approved child safety seats



Junior Drivers:

- Everyone in vehicle, regardless of age, must wear a seatbelt

NYS Distracted Driving, Talking &

Texting Law: It is illegal for drivers to use handheld electronic devices while their vehicle is in motion. Cell phone use requires a hands-free device.

The current NYS distracted driving law includes a **\$150 fine** and **3 points** on your license.

Illegal distracted driving activity includes holding an electronic device and:

- Composing, sending, reading, accessing, browsing, transmitting, saving, e-mailing, or text messaging
- Viewing, taking, or transmitting images
- Playing games



NYS Zero Tolerance Law

No Drinking Alcohol

Under Age 21

The Law:

- Under 21 & have a BAC of .02% or more, but less than .07%, you are in violation of Zero Tolerance Law



The Consequences:

- DMV hearing before Administrative Judge for having consumed alcohol while driving under age 21
- Arrested for Driving While Ability Impaired (DWAI) or Driving While Intoxicated (DWI)

Nassau County:

- Zero Tolerance – .02% to not more than .07%
- DWAI – greater than .05% and less than .08%
- DWI – .08% or higher (nationwide)
- Aggravated DWI – .18% or higher

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INFORMATION & RESOURCES FOR TEENS AND PARENTS

FACTS
LAWS
SAFETY TIPS



FOCUS ON

SAFE TEEN DRIVING

BASIC FACTS



Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S teens, accounting for 36% of all deaths in this age group.

- 14 teens age 16 to 20 are killed each day
- 5,000 teens killed; 300,000 injured yearly
- 80% of all traffic fatalities occur within 25 miles of home, at speeds under 40mph
- Over 50% of teen deaths from car crashes occur between 3 p.m. & midnight
- 54% of teen crashes occur on Friday, Saturday or Sunday
- Most teen crashes are due to inexperience, driver error, and usually involve a single vehicle
- The first 1,000 hours behind the wheel are the most dangerous for teenagers
- 1 in 3 teens will have a crash during their first year of driving
- Teens have lowest rate of seat belt use
- Research indicates: poor teen driving linked to immature brain development responsible for:

Planning
Impulse Control
Decision Making



DISTRACTED DRIVING

Distracted Driving: Refers to operating a motor vehicle while also engaging in any non-driving activity that takes the driver's attention off the road. These activities can distract from the primary task of driving and greatly increase the risk of an accident.



3 main types of distractions:

1. Visual — taking eyes off the road
2. Manual — taking hands off the wheel
3. Cognitive — taking mind off driving

Presence of Passengers strongly increases the risk that a teen driver will be involved in a crash

More Passengers = More Risk of a Crash

- Risk of crash doubles with 1 passenger
- Risk of crash increases 5 times with 2 or more passengers

Cell phone use is the **NUMBER ONE** source of driver inattention behind the wheel.

When You Text Message While Driving:

- Your eyes are off the road for about 5 seconds
- At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of a football field **blindfolded**
- It's like driving with a BAC of .08 which is legally intoxicated = DWI

Driving Behavior—Increase Crash Risk

Texting	23 times
Reaching for object in the car	9 times
Using cell phone	4 times
Driving drowsy	4 times
Looking at object outside car	3.7 times
Reading	3.7 times
Applying makeup	3 times

IMPAIRED DRIVING

Impaired Driving: Refers to driving under the influence after consuming alcohol and/or any other drugs resulting in poor decision making and inadequate judgment

All drugs alter perception, cognition, attention, balance, coordination, & other faculties required for safe driving. 1 in 3 people will be affected by impaired driving in their lifetime.

Teens are at risk from:

- driving under influence of alcohol and /or other drugs
- riding with drivers under the influence of alcohol and/ or other drugs

The Facts:

- Teen crashes involving alcohol, 1/3 result in fatalities
- Alcohol-related crashes cost the public more than \$51 billion yearly
- Marijuana & other drugs affect many skills required for safe driving; alertness, the ability to concentrate, coordination & reaction time
- Drugs other than alcohol (e.g., marijuana & cocaine) are involved in about 18% of motor vehicle driver deaths
- An average drunk driver has driven drunk 87 times before first arrest



"Impaired driving is no accident. It is a serious and deadly crime. In the U.S impaired driving kills someone every 30 minutes and injures every 2 minutes."

TEN WAYS TO STAY SAFE



1. Always wear a seatbelt
2. Limit number of passengers
3. Restrict night driving
4. No alcohol or other drug use
5. No cell phone or text messages
6. Avoid distractions: eating, CDs, iPods
7. Keep eyes on road & hands on wheel
8. Obey traffic signs, signals & markings
9. Know the driving laws
10. Drive a safe car

TEEN DRIVING RESOURCES

NYS DMV for all Young Drivers
<http://www.nydmv.state.ny.us/youngerdriver/>

Governor's Traffic Safety Committee
<http://www.safeny.com/>

NYS Department of Health
<http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/injuryprevention/teens.htm>

Official US Government Website For Distracted Driving
<http://www.distraction.gov/>

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
<http://www.nhtsa.gov/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<http://www.cdc.gov/Motorvehiclesafety/teendivers/>

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute
<http://www.teendriversource.org/>