

# INTERMEDIATE LICENSE

## LICENSING FOR DRIVERS UNDER AGE 18

Iowa has a graduated driver's license (GDL) system for drivers under age 18. GDL includes three steps that provide experience to improve driving skills. **These steps include:**



An intermediate license is an important step on the road to a full license. This license gives you more driving freedom and also more responsibility. Know how to keep you and others safe, and protect your privilege to drive.

## HOW DO I GET AN INTERMEDIATE LICENSE?

- Be at least 16 years old.
- Complete an Iowa-approved driver education course.
- Have had an instruction permit for a total of one year and a clean driving record for at least six consecutive months immediately before applying for your intermediate license.
- **Your parent or guardian must provide written consent** either in-person at a driver's license issuance site or complete the Parent's/Guardian's Written Consent Form (form 430018) available at any driver's license issuance site or by searching the form number at: <https://forms.iowadot.gov/BrowseForms.aspx>.

## WHAT CAN I DO WITH THIS LICENSE?

- **Drive without adult supervision between 5 a.m. and 12:30 a.m.**
- **Drive at any time with adult supervision.** Adult supervision means your parent, guardian, custodian, an immediate family member at least 21 years of age, a driver education instructor, or a person at least 25 years with written permission from your parent, guardian, or custodian. The supervising adult must possess a valid driver's license.

## WHAT CAN'T I DO WITH THIS LICENSE?

- **Drive without adult supervision between 12:30 a.m. and 5 a.m.** Your parent, guardian, or custodian can complete a Waiver of Intermediate Driver's License Hour Restriction form (form 431170) to waive this restriction for school or work purposes. Once completed, the form needs to be carried in the vehicle when driving after hours.
- **Use a cell phone, smartphone, tablet, or other electronic communication or entertainment device while driving.** This doesn't apply to equipment permanently installed in your vehicle. (*cont'd. on back*)

- **If the back of your license says you have a passenger restriction, for the first six months you have your intermediate license, you cannot carry more than one minor passenger that is not a relative when driving without adult supervision.** A relative means someone that is your brother, sister, step-brother, step-sister, or another minor living in your household.
- **Carry more passengers than the number of seat belts in your vehicle,** even when driving with adult supervision.

## HOW DO I ADVANCE TO THE FINAL STEP: A FULL LICENSE?

- **Be at least 17 years old.**
- **Keep your intermediate license for at least 12 consecutive months immediately before applying for a full license.**
- **Maintain a clean driving record for at least 12 consecutive months immediately before applying for a full license.**
- **Complete 10 hours of supervised driving while holding your intermediate license.** At least two of those hours must be between sunset and sunrise.

Once you turn 18 you can obtain a full license without meeting these requirements.

## WHAT IF I MESS UP?

Your license will be suspended if you are convicted of a traffic violation (examples include, but are not limited to, speeding, reckless driving, failure to obey a traffic signal), violate any of the restrictions on your license, or are involved in a crash you caused or contributed to.

- **First conviction, violation, or crash:** Your license may be suspended or you may receive additional restrictions. Additional restrictions may include, but are not limited to, additional passenger restrictions and additional reductions on the hours you may operate without supervision.
- **Second conviction, violation, or crash:** Your license will be suspended for 30 days.

Any time you have a conviction, violation, or crash your 12-month period to have a clean driving record will start over. Any time your license is suspended or revoked, your 12 month period to hold an intermediate license will start over.

## MAKE GOOD DECISIONS

You're in the best position to protect yourself, your passengers, and your privileges. Be careful and make good decisions!

Drive at a safe speed, keep your eyes on the road, and your hands on the wheel. Put phones and other distractions away.

Be sure your passengers are wearing seat belts and limit the number of passengers, even if your license doesn't have a passenger restriction – every passenger you add drastically increases your risk of being in a crash.

**Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of teen deaths – don't let it happen to you and your friends!**

Federal and state laws prohibit employment and/or public accommodation discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, gender identity, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran's status. If you believe you have been discriminated against, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at 800-457-4416 or Iowa Department of Transportation's affirmative action officer. If you need accommodations because of a disability to access the Iowa Department of Transportation's services, contact the agency's affirmative action officer at 800-262-0003.