

# A Guide to Obtaining a Pennsylvania Junior Learner's Permit and Junior Driver's License



## **NEW DRIVERS**

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Now that you're almost 16 years of age or older, you're probably thinking about getting a driver's license. This brochure has been written to make getting that license a little less complicated.

Before you can be issued a driver's license, you must first obtain a learner's permit. At age 16, you are eligible for two classes of learner's permits and driver's licenses.

## **ELIGIBLE CLASSES**

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### **Class C**

A Class C driver's license will be issued to persons who have demonstrated their qualifications to operate any vehicle with a gross weight rating of 26,000 pounds or less. The holder of a Class C driver's license is also authorized to drive a motorized pedalcycle or a three-wheeled motorcycle equipped with an enclosed cab, but not a motorcycle.

### **Class M**

A Class M driver's license will be issued to those persons 16 years of age or older who have demonstrated their ability to operate a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle. If a person is qualified to operate only a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle, he/she will be issued a Class M driver's license. If you test on a motor-driven cycle, an "8" restriction will appear on your driver's license. This restriction prohibits you from operating a motorcycle. If you test on a motorcycle with more than two wheels, a "9" restriction will appear on your driver's license. This restriction prohibits you from operating a 2-wheeled motorcycle.

## **FEES**

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You may apply for one or both Class C and Class M licenses. The total fees are \$45.50 for a Class C permit and \$63.50 for both Class C and Class M permits. The fee is \$6.00 for a Class C permit and \$18.00 for a Class M permit, plus \$39.50 for your 4-year Pennsylvania Photo Driver's License.

## **APPLYING FOR YOUR JUNIOR LEARNER'S PERMIT**

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The first thing to do is download a copy of the Pennsylvania Driver's Manual (PUB 95) and study it. The manual is available on PennDOT's website at [www.dmv.pa.gov](http://www.dmv.pa.gov).

The next step is to get your physical examination. Take the Non-Commercial Learner's Permit Application (DL-180) (located on our website at [www.dmv.pa.gov](http://www.dmv.pa.gov) under the Forms and Publications link at the top of the page or at our Driver License Centers ) to your physician to have the Physician's Report of Examination section completed. All information must be completed. Please note, this form may be completed no earlier than 6 months prior to your 16th birthday and is only valid for 1 year from the date of your physical examination.

Your parent, guardian, person in loco parentis (who is 21 years of age or older) or spouse who is 18 years of age or older must complete the Parent or Guardian Consent Form (DL-180TD) also located on our website at [www.dmv.pa.gov](http://www.dmv.pa.gov) under the Forms and Publications link at the top of the page or at our Driver License Centers. Proper identification is required.

When you are ready to be tested, you may go to the Driver License Center of your choice. At this time you will be given a vision screening and the knowledge test which will test your knowledge of road signs and the rules of the road. This information is found in the Pennsylvania Driver's Manual. Please study this Manual prior to appearing at the examination center for your vision screening and knowledge test.

When you go to the Driver License Center, you must take the following documents with you (**Photocopies will not be accepted**):

1. Completed Non-Commercial Learner's Permit Application (Form DL-180).
2. Your completed Parent or Guardian Consent Form (DL-180TD).
3. Proof of your date of birth and identification. Acceptable forms of identification can be found on the reverse side of the Non-Commercial Learner's Permit Application (Form DL-180). **These forms must be originals.**
4. Your Social Security Card or SSA ineligibility letter (must be original).
5. A valid form of payment. Acceptable forms of payment include debit cards, credit cards, and checks or money orders made payable to "PennDOT." **Cash is not accepted at our Driver License Centers.**

If you fail the knowledge test, the examiner will return the Non-Commercial Learner's Permit Application and your Parent or Guardian Consent Form. You may take the test only one time on any day regardless of test location. Keep your forms in a safe place since you must bring them with you when you are tested again.

After successful completion of the vision screening and Pennsylvania's knowledge test, the examiner will give you a learner's permit that is valid for 1 year. Upon receipt of your learner's permit, you may begin to practice driving. Students may also schedule their skills test at this time as long as the testing is not before the eligibility date printed on their initial learner's permit.

You are required to complete at least 65 hours of behind-the-wheel skill-building, including no less than ten hours of nighttime driving and five (5) hours of bad weather driving, before taking your road test. This training will help teach you the skills necessary to become a good, safe driver. Be sure to read the comprehensive guide to help teach new drivers to be safe drivers (*The Parent's Supervised Driving Program guidebook*) that will be given to you with your Learner's Permit. Your Parent/Guardian will have to certify that you have completed at least the minimum hours of behind-the-wheel training and at least the minimum hours of behind the wheel skill building.

If your learner's permit expires or if you do not pass your road test after 3 tries, you may obtain a Non-Commercial Learner's Permit application to add/extend/replace/change/correct (DL-31). It is not necessary to have another physical exam unless 3 years have elapsed from the date of your last physical.

Remember, when driving with your learner's permit, you **MUST** be accompanied by a licensed driver who is at least 21 years of age or a parent, guardian, person in loco parentis or spouse who is at least 18 years of age and licensed with the same or higher class vehicle that appears on your learner's permit. That person must actually sit in the seat beside you, unless you are driving a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle. (*See motorcycle section.*)

## **DRIVING ROAD TEST**

After you have received your valid learner's permit, you must wait the mandatory 6 months from your permit issue date and have a signed Certificate of Completion for the 65 hours of skill-building before taking your road test.

When you are ready to take the road test, you can schedule it via the Driver & Vehicle Services website: [www.dmv.pa.gov](http://www.dmv.pa.gov). If you do not have access to the Internet you can schedule your road test by calling 717-412-5300.

Non CDL Driving tests may now be scheduled at a Third Party Site in addition to a PennDOT Driver License Center. Third Party sites establish their own market driven testing fees. All Third party examiners have been certified by PennDOT and the test is the same as the one which is administered by the PennDOT Driver License Centers. Please contact the Third Party tester for information and scheduling. For locations visit our website at [www.dmv.pa.gov](http://www.dmv.pa.gov).

**You will need to present the following items to the examiner prior to taking your road test.**

- Your learner's permit,
- The completed certificate for 65 hours of behind-the-wheel training,
- The valid registration card for the vehicle which you plan to drive for the test,
- Proof that the vehicle is currently insured; and
- The valid driver's license of the person accompanying you to the Driver License Center.

**If you do not bring the original documents (not copies) listed, you will NOT be given the road test.**

If you fail, you may reschedule your road test, but may not take another road test for at least seven days.

If you have not taken or successfully completed the road test within 3 years of your physical examination date, you **MUST** start over with another Non-Commercial Learner's Permit Application, have another physical exam and retake the knowledge test.

If you successfully pass your on-road test you will be directed to the Photo License Center to have your photo taken.

Your license will expire approximately four years later, **the day after your birthday.**

## **JUNIOR DRIVER'S LICENSE INFORMATION**

Your license will be a "junior driver's license." You are not permitted to drive between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. It is illegal to drive between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. on a junior driver license unless your parent, guardian, person in loco parentis who is 21 year of age or older or spouse who is 18 years of age or older accompanies you in the vehicle. The passenger must be a parent, guardian or spouse not an 18 year old friend. In addition, drivers under the age of 18 cannot have more passengers in the vehicle than the number of seat belts.

**The exception to this restriction is:**

You may drive between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. if you are involved in a public or charitable service, a member of a volunteer fire company or employed during those hours. In these cases, you must carry a notarized affidavit or certificate of authorization from your employer, supervisor or fire chief indicating your probable schedule of activities. This notarized affidavit, which must be kept with your junior driver's license, will allow you to drive to and from work or on work related business between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.

You may not carry more than one (1) passenger under the age of 18 who is not an immediate family member unless your parent(s) or guardian(s) is in the vehicle with you. After the first six (6) months of driving on a junior license, the limit is increased to no more than three (3) passengers under the age of 18 who are not immediate family members unless your parent(s) or guardian(s) is in the vehicle with you. The increased limit does not apply to any junior driver who has ever been involved in a crash in which they were partially or fully responsible or who is convicted of any driving violation.

If you have an accident for which you are partially or fully responsible, or if you commit certain moving violations, your license may be suspended until you are 18 years of age or for a period of time not exceeding 90 days. You will be given the same fines, penalties and points on your driving record as any regular driver would receive.

In addition to these requirements, the driving privilege of a person under the age of 18 will be suspended if that person accumulates 6 or more points or is convicted of driving 26 miles per hour or more over the posted speed limit. The first suspension will be for a period of 90 days. Any additional occurrences will result in a suspension of 120 days.

Remember, you are subject to the same rules of the road as any other licensed driver. Failure to obey these laws will result in your privilege to drive being suspended, revoked, cancelled or recalled.

## **RECEIVING A REGULAR DRIVER'S LICENSE**

You may obtain a regular license at 17½ years of age if you pass an approved driver training program, have no violations or accidents on your driving record, have held your Junior License for one year and have the consent of your parents, guardian or spouse. Otherwise, you must wait to have a regular license until you reach age 18. When you turn 18 years of age, your original junior driver's license will automatically become a regular license. The birth date on your license will show that this is true. You do not need to apply for a new license until your original license expires.

If you wish to apply for a regular driver's license, a DL-59 (Application for Change from a Junior Driver's License to a Regular Non-commercial License) form can be obtained from our website or from any PennDOT Driver License Center, most notaries, tag service, automobile club, your driver education teachers and some district justices.



## MOTORCYCLE INFORMATION

You may download a copy of the Pennsylvania Motorcycle Operator's Manual (PUB 147) from our website at [www.dmv.pa.gov](http://www.dmv.pa.gov).

A motorcycle learner's permit entitles the person to whom it is issued to operate a motorcycle only between sunrise and sunset, and except for a driver licensed to drive another class of vehicle, only while under the instruction and supervision of a licensed motorcycle operator. Motorcycle learners cannot carry any passenger other than an instructor properly licensed to operate a motorcycle.

PennDOT provides and recommends beginner and advanced motorcycle safety training and riding instructions to all interested Pennsylvania residents who have a Class M permit or driver's license. There is no fee for the course and motorcycles and helmets are provided.

Please note: The PA motorcycle safety basic rider course is required for anyone under 18 wishing to obtain a motorcycle license before the class M can be issued.

## MOTORCYCLE SAFETY PROGRAM INFORMATION

For more information on the Motorcycle Safety Program visit the Driver & Vehicle Services website: [www.pamsp.com](http://www.pamsp.com).

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Information regarding Driver and Vehicle Services is available 24 hours if using a touch tone (pulse-tone) telephone. Service Representatives are available between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Monday through Friday for direct assistance except on Major holidays by calling: 717-412-5300. TTY callers - Please dial 711 to reach us.



People with other disabilities may contact the telephone number listed above and a service representative can provide instructions regarding any special needs or concerns.

Visit the Driver & Vehicle Services website at: [www.dmv.pa.gov](http://www.dmv.pa.gov)

## MAILING ADDRESS FOR INFORMATION

Bureau of Driver Licensing  
Correspondence Unit  
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 68618  
Harrisburg, PA 17106-8618

## READY TO TAKE THE ROAD TEST?

Schedule your driver's test online by visiting the Driver & Vehicle Services website at:

[www.dmv.pa.gov](http://www.dmv.pa.gov)

