

# **ALABAMA'S GRADUATED DRIVERS LICENSE**

An overview of the current law

# HISTORY OF THE LAW

- The Graduated Drivers License Law, Act No. 2002-408, became effective as of October 1, 2002.
- This law is aimed at youthful drivers gaining more experience of driving while having less distractions.



# The GDL does not apply in the following situations:

1. Individuals 18 years of age or older.
2. Individuals 17 years of age or older who have had a valid drivers license for six months or longer.
3. Individuals who are 16 years of age who are married or the head of the household.
4. Individuals that have been legally relieved of minority status (the state or period of being below the legal age).

# IMPORTANT!!

A person under the age of 18 may not apply for an unrestricted license until that person has held a learner's license for at *least a 6 month period* with no violations of the restrictions.



Information concerning operation of a  
vehicle in Alabama for 15 and 16 year  
old drivers.



15 year olds with a valid learner's license  
are authorized to drive while  
accompanied in the front seat by:

- A parent
- Legal guardian
- 21 year old with a valid license
- Certified driving instructor

# 16 year olds must:

- have parental or legal guardian permission to receive a license and to drive without supervision.

AND

- have a verification form provided by the Department of Public Safety, signed by a parent or legal guardian or certified driving instructor verifying that the applicant has COMPLETED a minimum of 30 hours of Behind-The-Wheel practice.

OR

- submit a completion form supplied by the SDE verifying that the applicant has COMPLETED an SDE approved Driver Education course.

# Restrictions on the license of a person who is:

- 16 years of age
- 17 years of age with a license less than six months

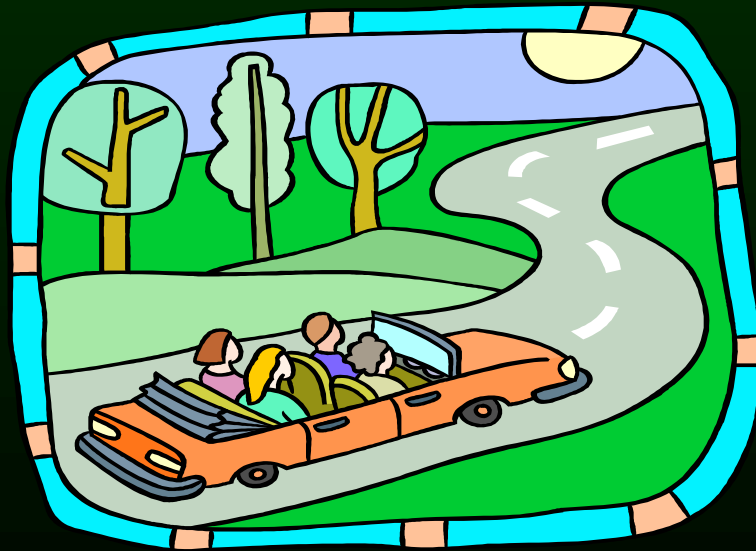




# 1) The student may not operate a vehicle between midnight and 6:00 am UNLESS:

- Accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
- Accompanied by a person 21 years of age or older who is duly licensed and has the consent of the licensee's parent or legal guardian.
- Going to or from their regular workplace.
- Going to or from a school sponsored event.
- Going to or from a religious sponsored event.
- Driving for the purpose of a medical, fire, or law enforcement related emergency.

2) May not have more than four occupants in the vehicle excluding a parent or legal guardian of licensee.  
(Three friends, driver and parent maximum).



# ENFORCEMENT OF THE GDL



# Violation of either of the two restrictions:

- Will cause the licensee to be guilty of a traffic violation, but shall not be subject to any criminal penalties or court costs.
- Will cause no citation to be issued for a traffic violation unless the licensee is stopped for a separate violation of the law and issued a citation or warrant for the separate violation.
- No points will be assessed for violation of either restriction.
- Will result in the restrictive period being extended by six months or until the driver reaches 18 years of age.

# If a licensee is:

- convicted of a second moving traffic violation;
- convicted of failure to give information;
- failure to render aid;
- racing;
- fleeing;
- attempting to elude a law enforcement officer;
- reckless driving;
- illegal passing;
- driving on the wrong side of the road;
- or any other offense where four or more points are assessed:

Their license will automatically be suspended for sixty days or until the age of 18, whichever comes first.

This rule will also apply to other violations as designated by rules or regulations that may be imposed pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act.

# QUESTIONS?

