

What are GDL Programs?

Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) programs are designed to minimize the highest risk situations for a new driver while they safely gain crucial experience behind the wheel. GDL programs introduce young drivers to the road slowly with a gradual, staged approach to earning a driver's license.

GDL LAWS SAVE LIVES

Car crashes are the number one killer of teens, taking almost 4,000 young lives annually. These crashes are not just sad accidents—they are preventable crashes.

Since the inception of GDL laws, teen fatalities and serious injuries have been reduced by up to 40%.

50% of teens killed in car crashes were passengers driven by another teen

THREE STAGES OF THE GDL LAW:

- 1 Instructional Permit
- 2 Provisional License
- 3 Full Driver's License

It's simple. Read on to understand the different licensing stages and guidelines.

WHAT CAN TEENS, PARENTS, AND GUARDIANS DO?

By understanding, following, and enforcing GDL laws, teens, parents, and guardians can minimize the risk of a car crash and keep the roads safer for everyone.



Visit ImpactTeenDrivers.org/NewMexico for more information.



Understanding GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING LAWS

New Mexico



Impact
Teen Drivers



STAGE 1

INSTRUCTIONAL PERMIT

The Instructional Permit stage is the time to gain driving experience.

This stage can begin at age 15. First, teens must enroll in a state-approved driver training course and study the New Mexico Driver's Handbook. Next, teens will visit a New Mexico Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) Field Office to take a vision test and the MVD Knowledge Exam. Upon passing both tests, they become the proud holder of an Instructional Permit.

Teens need a minimum of 50 hours of behind-the-wheel supervised driving time with a licensed adult who is 21 years of age or older and has been licensed for at least three years. Ten of those hours must be at night. They will hold their Instructional Permit for a minimum of six months before taking the MVD Road Skills Exam.

STAGE 2

PROVISIONAL LICENSE

Once a teen passes the MVD Road Skills Exam, they will receive their Provisional License.

A Provisional License allows the teen driver to drive ALONE. However, they must follow these driving restrictions while in the Provisional License stage:

- *No more than one passenger* under 21 years old who is not an immediate family member UNLESS accompanied by a licensed driver over the age of 21
- *No driving between midnight and 5 a.m.* UNLESS accompanied by a licensed driver over the age of 21
- *Seat belts* are mandatory for all people in the car
- *Handheld cell phone use* is illegal for all New Mexico drivers



STAGE 3

FULL DRIVER'S LICENSE

After one year of safe driving, the *passenger* and *nighttime restrictions* are lifted. Remember, using a phone while driving is a major distraction, and even hands-free is not distraction-free. Seat belts remain mandatory for all occupants of a vehicle under New Mexico law.

With a full driver's license, teens can participate in all of the privileges, responsibilities, and enjoyments that come with driving. But remember, driving is a privilege, not a right, and it is important to drive safely at all times no matter age or experience.

Congrats!

