Look Who’s Driving Now

A Parent’s Guide to Graduated Driver Licensing
Welcome

Introduction – what to expect from this session

• The driver education course
• Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 licenses
• Coaching tips
• Parents’ responsibilities
Your questions and concerns

- What are your questions about Graduated Driver Licensing?
- What concerns you about teaching your teenager how to drive and letting him or her drive on his or her own?
Our driver education course

• How we teach it
• What we expect from each student
Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death for youth between 15 and 20.
Young drivers are more involved in single-vehicle crashes and off-road crashes.
Passengers increase crash risk for teenage drivers

Studies found that —

- One passenger almost doubled fatal crash risk
- With two or more passengers, risk was five times as high
One in five teenage drivers has a collision in his/her first year of driving.
Graduated Driver Licensing:

- Requires student driving experience and parent involvement
- Puts restrictions on driving
- Gradually allows more responsibilities
- Follows step-by-step preparation
Level 1 license requires:

- Minimum age of 14 years, 9 months
- 24 hours of Segment 1 classroom instruction
- 6 hours of driving experience
Level 1 license requires:

- Segment 1 certificate
- Certified birth certificate
- Vision test
Level 1 license permits driving only with licensed:

- Parent
- Guardian
- Designated adult age 21 or older
Level 2 license requires:

- Minimum age of 16
- Level 1 license for 6 months
- 50 hours of driving total
- 10 hours of night driving
Level 2 license requires:

- Crash and violation-free for the last 90 days before application
- 6 hours of Segment 2 classroom instruction
- Road Skills Test
Road Skills Test requires:

- Parent or guardian with student
- Vehicle must pass inspection
- Up to 1 hour to complete
- Parent or guardian to ride along during on-road portion of test
For Level 2 license

When your student goes to the Secretary of State’s Office he/she will need:

- Parent or guardian
- Segment 2 certificate
- Road Skills Test certificate
For Level 2 license

When your student goes to the Secretary of State’s Office he/she will need:

- Level 1 license
- You to sign an affidavit stating the student completed the 50-hour driving requirement
Level 2 license:

- Parent or guardian not required in vehicle
- No driving from midnight to 5 AM...
  - unless accompanied by a parent, guardian or designated adult
  - or driving to or from a job
Level 3 license requires:

- 6 months at Level 2
- Minimum age of 17
- One year free of any moving violations or at-fault crashes
Level 3 license:

- Has no restrictions
- Parents can cancel or drop back level of license up to age 18
When coaching your student:

- Define tasks
- Set goals for each drive
- Stay positive
- Stay on low speed, low volume roads
When coaching your student:

- Take many 20-minute drives
- Repetition is the key
- Practice routes he/she will use
- Communication is key
When coaching your student:

- Pay attention – limit distractions
- Compliment good performance
When coaching your student:

- Use mistakes for learning
  - Get out of traffic
  - Stop the vehicle
  - Address the error
  - Practice again – correctly
When coaching your student:

- Keep your cool under stress
Student drivers should:

- Search – don’t stare down the road
- Practice in various weather conditions
- Practice in different traffic environments
- Progress in steps
Focus on these defensive driving and observation skills:

- Anticipating hazards
- Planning routes
- Factoring in the weather
- Minimizing distractions
Parents’ responsibilities:

- Require everyone in the vehicle to always wear a safety belt
- Limit the number of passengers
- Minimize distractions
Parents’ responsibilities:

- Enforce zero tolerance for alcohol and other drugs
- Take away the keys if you have to
- Set rules for your student as a passenger in other vehicles
The Parent/Teen Safe Driving Contract

- Clearly spells out the rules and consequences for breaking them
- Clearly spells out the limits of the driving privilege
The Parent/Teen Safe Driving Contract

- Requires a commitment from the student
- Requires a commitment from the parent to drive safely
In Michigan – GDL works

After the law – the overall crash risk for 16-year-olds was reduced 25%.
Thank you for coming!

Please buckle up!