



## CHAPTER 1

# YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE

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### 1.1 WHO NEEDS AN IOWA DRIVER'S LICENSE?

In Iowa, anyone operating a motor vehicle, motorcycle, or moped on public roads is required to have a permit or license. You are considered an Iowa resident for purposes of driver's licensing if you have done at least one of the following:

- Registered to vote in this state.
- Enrolled your child in an Iowa public school.
- Accepted a permanent job in Iowa.
- Lived in Iowa continuously for 30 days.
- Filed for a homestead tax exemption or military tax exemption on property in Iowa.
- Receive public assistance from the state of Iowa.

You do NOT need a driver's license if you are:

- Driving a military vehicle while on duty with the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Driving farm equipment between the home farm and any nearby farmland or farm operation within two miles.
- Driving with a current license from your home state or country while in Iowa as a visitor or student.



VISIT **IOWADOT.GOV** TO LEARN ABOUT:

- ✓ When to renew your license and how to do it.
- ✓ The Graduated Driver's License Program (for drivers under age 18).
- ✓ Taking your knowledge test at home or school (Skip the Trip)
- ✓ Specific types of driver's licenses such as moped licenses and CDLs.



## 1.2 CARRYING YOUR LICENSE, INSURANCE, & REGISTRATION

You should always have your license or permit with you while driving. Drivers of vehicles registered in Iowa must also carry current proof of registration and an insurance card (printed or electronic) to verify proof of liability insurance. Failure to do so could result in fines and possible impoundment of the vehicle.

## 1.3 REQUIRED HEALTH SCREENINGS AND TESTS

When you apply for your license, you will be required to do the following:

- Complete a vision screening.
- Pass the knowledge test.
- Show that you've successfully completed an Iowa-approved driver's education course (if you are under 18).
- Pass a driving test (not required if you satisfy the driver's education course requirement).



Study online with our practice test:  
[www.iowadot.gov/mvd/driverslicense/manuals-and-practice-tests](http://www.iowadot.gov/mvd/driverslicense/manuals-and-practice-tests)