

INSTRUCTION PERMIT

Licensing for Drivers Under Age 18

Iowa has a graduated driver's license (GDL) system for drivers under 18. The GDL includes three steps to help you gain experience and improve driving skills. **These steps include:**

1 Instruction Permit

Special Minor's Restricted License (optional)

2 Intermediate License

3 Full License

YOU ARE HERE

An instruction permit is the first step on the road to a driver's license. Driving is an adult responsibility. It's up to you to keep yourself and others safe and protect your privilege to drive.

How Do I Get An Instruction Permit?

- Be at least 14 years old.
- Your parent or guardian must provide written consent by:
 - Visiting a DMV location; OR
 - Completing the Parent's/Guardian's Written Consent Form (form 430018). This form is available at any DMV location or by searching the form number at: <https://iowadot.seamlessdocs.com/sc/>.
- Pass the written and vision test.
- Provide a primary form of identification, proof of residency, and proof of Social Security number. Create a list of documents to take with you to the DMV at: www.iowadot.gov/mvd/realid/success.html

What Can I Do With This Permit?

- **Drive at any time with adult supervision.** The adult must have a valid driver's license and be one of the following:
 - Parent, guardian, or custodian.
 - Immediate family member at least 21 years of age.
 - Driver education instructor.
 - Person at least 25 years old with written permission from your parent, guardian, or custodian.

What Can't I Do With This Permit?

- **Drive without adult supervision.**
- **Use any electronic communication or entertainment device while driving.** This doesn't apply to equipment permanently installed in your vehicle.
- **Carry more passengers than the number of seat belts in your vehicle.**

How Do I Advance to the Next Step: An Intermediate License?

- Be at least 16 years old.
- Complete an Iowa-approved driver education course.
- Hold an instruction permit for a total of 12 months.
- Maintain a clean driving record for at least six consecutive months immediately before applying for an intermediate license.
- Your parent or guardian must provide written consent by:
 - Visiting any DMV location; OR
 - Completing the Parent's/Guardian's Written Consent Form (form 430018). This form is available at any DMV location or by searching the form number at: [iowadot.seamlessdocs.com/sc/](https://www.iowadot.seamlessdocs.com/sc/).
- Complete 20 hours of supervised driving, including any driving you completed in driver's education. At least two of those hours must be between sunset and sunrise.

What If I Mess Up?

- **Your permit may be suspended if you:**
 - Are convicted of a traffic violation. Examples include, but are not limited to, speeding, reckless driving, and failure to obey a traffic signal.
 - Violate any of the restrictions on your permit.
 - Cause or contribute to a crash.
- **First conviction, violation, or crash:** Your permit may be suspended or you may receive a safety advisory letter.
- **Second conviction, violation, or crash:** Your permit will be suspended for 30 days.
- **Any time you have a conviction, violation, or crash, or your permit gets suspended or revoked, your six-month period to have a clean driving record will start over.**

Make Good Decisions

- **Get as much practice as possible.** Drive with a qualified, responsible adult in a variety of situations.
- **Drive at a safe speed, keep your eyes on the road, and keep your hands on the wheel.**
- **Put phones and other distractions away.**
- **Be sure your passengers wear their seat belts.**
- **Limit the number of passengers.** Every passenger you add drastically increases your risk of being in a crash.

**MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES ARE THE
#1 CAUSE OF TEEN DEATHS.
DON'T LET IT HAPPEN TO YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS.**

LEARN MORE AT:
[IOWADOT.GOV/MVD](https://www.iowadot.gov/mvd)