

ATTENTION: Drivers under 18

During the last legislative session, some of the laws that impact young drivers and passengers were changed, so it's important for you to understand what's at risk when you're in a vehicle.



Graduated Driver Licensing – *Do It Right, or Do It Over*

- You may obtain a learner's permit when you are age 14. Your learner's permit must be held for six months before you can take the driving test. Your supervising driver must be at least 18 years of age, have at least three years of driving experience, and possess a valid driver's license.
- Any driver younger than 16 years of age may not carry more passengers than the vehicle's manufacturer recommends.
- All drivers younger than 16 years of age must complete driver education either through the school system or a commercial driving school – before the behind-the-wheel driving test is given.
- Any driver younger than 18 years of age who accumulates more than five points on the driving record or commits an alcohol violation while driving will have their license or permit cancelled. That means the driver, following completion of any penalty imposed, must return to the learner's permit stage and complete another driver education course before being allowed to repeat the behind-the-wheel driving test. The learner's permit must be held for six months. No work or school permits are granted.



ND Department of Health
ND Department of Transportation/NHTSA
Questions: Call 701.328.2600

Buckle Up – *Driver's Rule*

- All vehicle occupants younger than age 18 must be buckled up. (Children younger than age 4 **must** be properly secured in an approved car safety seat).
- This law applies to all seating positions – front seat and back seat.
- The driver is responsible for ensuring that all occupants younger than age 18 are buckled up.
- The penalty for violating this law is **one point** on the driver's record.
- This is a **primary** enforcement law – meaning an officer may stop any driver who is transporting unrestrained occupants younger than age 18.

Make the Right Choice

It's important for you to know why these laws were passed. You may feel that young drivers are being "picked on," but keep these facts in mind:

- In 1998, there were 454,933 licensed drivers on the roads in North Dakota. 10.7 percent of them were drivers ages 14 through 20, but they were involved in 27 percent of the injury crashes.
- North Dakota is unique in allowing 14 year-old teens to obtain a driver's license. Most states require children to wait until age 16.
- Driving is not a "right." It is a privilege that gives you the opportunity to go places and do things you could not do without a driver's license.



Protect your driver's license and your life. Obey the laws – don't speed, buckle up, and never drink and drive.