

ROOKIEdriver

Maryland's Graduated Licensing System

An important part of this effort is **the Rookie Driver**, Maryland's graduated licensing system for new drivers.

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- To obtain a learner's permit, provisional license or driver's license, visit any of our full-service offices in Maryland. Contact the MVA or go online at www.MVA.Maryland.gov, for MVA locations, hours and requirements for identification and fees.
- Your driver's skills test for your provisional **Class "C" or Class "M"** license must be scheduled in advance. Go to <https://mvascheduling.mdot.state.md.us> to schedule an appointment. **Driver's skills test appointments are no longer scheduled by phone for the Class "C" or Class "M" tests.**
- Contact the MVA or go online at www.MVA.Maryland.gov, for a free copy of the "Maryland Driver's Handbook" and "How to Apply" brochure. Each offers valuable information for new drivers.
- The State of Maryland requires all registered owners to carry liability insurance, uninsured motorist, and Personal Injury Protection (PIP) coverage.

FOR MARYLAND MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION:

1-800-950-1MVA (1682)

(to speak with a customer representative)

1-301-729-4550 Out-of-State

1-800-492-4575 TTY for the Hearing Impaired

Or visit: www.MVA.Maryland.gov



6601 Ritchie Highway, N.E.
Glen Burnie, MD 21062



DL-060 (05-11)

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General Information

Everything
You Need
To Know
About

Maryland's GRADUATED LICENSING SYSTEM

**Maryland's
Motor Vehicle
Administration**
is working with
drivers to make
sharing the road
safer for everyone

~ especially
new drivers.



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Maryland's Graduated Licensing System

The Rookie Driver applies to all applicants, regardless of age, who have never held a license in Maryland or any other state or country.

The program requires new drivers to gain more driving experience with a supervising driver.

It encourages good driving behavior by imposing strict sanctions during each step of the licensing process, such as driver improvement classes or the suspension or revocation of licenses.

WHY DO WE NEED A GRADUATED LICENSING SYSTEM?

- It takes a significant amount of time to learn to operate a motor vehicle safely.
- Far too much dangerous behavior is being demonstrated by both experienced and inexperienced drivers behind the wheel today.
- Inexperienced driving leads to traffic accidents, injuries and fatalities.

In **The Rookie Driver** graduated licensing system, applicants progress through three levels of licensing:

- 1 **A learner's permit**
- 2 **A provisional license**
- 3 **A full driver's license**

The

LEARNER'S PERMIT

A learner's permit allows a new driver to begin the learning process of operating a motor vehicle.

- Minimum age for applicants is 15 years and 9 months.
- If under 16, you must provide a completed Learner's Permit School Attendance Certification form (DL-300) to an MVA official during the learner's permit application process.
- A parent or guardian must co-sign the learner's permit application if the applicant is under 18.
- Applicants must pass all required tests.
- Applicants must hold a valid learner's permit prior to behind-the-wheel driver education training and driving on Maryland highways.
- While driving, learner's permit holders must be accompanied by a qualified supervising driver who is 21 or older, and has held a license for a minimum of 3 years. The person must be seated beside the new driver at all times, with no other front seat occupants.
- A qualified supervising driver (parent, guardian or mentor) must complete a Practice Log for the learner's permit holder which is issued by the MVA along with every learner's permit.
- Learner's permits are valid for 2 years from the date they are issued.
- Learner's permit holders under 18 are prohibited from using a wireless communication device (including a cell phone) while operating a motor vehicle, with the exception of a 911 emergency call. Violations may result in a suspension of your driving privileges.

The

PROVISIONAL LICENSE

A provisional license is the next stage of **The Rookie Driver** graduated licensing system process. Effective October 1, 2009, after gaining experience driving with a learner's permit for 9 months, maintaining a conviction-free or Probation Before Judgement (PBJ)-free driving record, and completing a standardized driver education course, new drivers are eligible for a provisional license.

- Minimum age is 16 years and 6 months.
- Applicants must successfully complete a standardized driver education course. Effective January 1, 2009, all driver education providers will electronically submit the applicant's course completion information directly to the MVA, eliminating the issuance of paper driver education certificates.
- A qualified supervising driver (parent, guardian or mentor) must submit a completed and signed Practice Log documenting a minimum of 60 hours of supervised driving for the applicant. At least 10 of the practice hours must occur during the period beginning 30 minutes before sunset and ending 30 minutes after sunrise.

A qualified supervising driver is a licensed driver, 21 years of age or older, with at least 3 years driving experience.

- Applicants must pass a skills test administered either in traffic or on a course. Your driver's skills test for your provisional **Class "C" or Class "M"** license must be scheduled in advance. Go to <https://mvascheduling.mdot.state.md.us> to schedule an appointment. **Driver's skills test appointments are no longer scheduled by phone for the Class "C" or Class "M" tests.**
- Provisional license holders under 18 are only authorized to drive without supervision between the hours of 5 am to midnight. From midnight to 5 am they must be accompanied by a qualified supervising driver.
- Provisional license holders under the age of 18, during the first 5 months (151 days) of the provisional period, are not allowed to have passengers under the age of 18, unless accompanied by a *qualified supervising driver* or the passengers are *direct family members*.

Direct family members can be a spouse, daughter, son, stepdaughter, stepson, sister, brother, stepsister, or step-brother of the provisional license holder; or a relative of the license holder who lives at the same address.

- Provisional license holders under 18 and all passengers in the vehicle they are driving must use proper restraints.
- Provisional license holders under 18 are prohibited from using a wireless communication device (including a cell phone) while operating

a motor vehicle, with the exception of a 911 emergency call. Violations may result in a suspension of your driving privileges.

- Convictions or "Probation Before Judgement" (PBJ) for moving violations while holding a provisional license will require the completion of driver improvement program and/or suspension/revocation of your driver's license. A conviction or Probation Before Judgement (PBJ) will also restart the 18-month minimum waiting period.

In addition to other sanctions applied by the courts, these Administrative sanctions listed below are also imposed:

1st Conviction = Driver improvement program

2nd Conviction = 30-day suspension of license

3rd Conviction = 180-day suspension and completion of a young driver improvement program

4th Conviction = Revocation

The

DRIVER'S LICENSE

The State of Maryland's full driver's license is the privilege awarded to drivers who progress through **The Rookie Driver** graduated licensing system.

- Minimum age is 18 years.
- Drivers must hold a provisional license for a minimum of 18 months and be conviction-free during that period.
- If under 21, the applicant's license and record must be alcohol-free.
- Once provisional license holders successfully meet all requirements, the MVA automatically converts the license to a full driver's license status. An attachment card showing the conversion to a full license is mailed to the driver. The card is carried with the provisional license to show the change in licensing status. The attachment card is no longer needed when the provisional license expires. The driver comes in for a license renewal, pays the renewal fee and then is issued a full license.
- Sending text messages while operating a motor vehicle is prohibited.
- Effective October 1, 2010, Maryland Law prohibits the use of handheld communication devices while operating a motor vehicle.