



Maryland's Graduated Licensing System

An important part of this effort is **the Rookie Driver Program**, 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.
- When you visit MVA to obtain a learner's permit, you will have to pass a vision test and a knowledge test before a learner's permit can be issued. Practice for the knowledge test BEFORE you go at www.mva.maryland.gov/tutorial
- 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.
- Contact the MVA or go online at www.MVA.Maryland.gov, for a free copy of the *Maryland Driver's Manual* with all the best information needed for a new driver as well as obtain other useful information.
- The State of Maryland requires all registered owners to carry liability insurance, uninsured motorist, and Personal Injury Protection (PIP) coverage.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:

410-768-7000

(to speak with an MVA Customer Agent)

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

TTY for the Hearing Impaired **301-729-4563**

Or visit: www.MVA.Maryland.gov



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



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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.

ROOKIEdriver

Maryland's Graduated Licensing System

The Rookie Driver Program 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 driving experience under the supervision of an experienced driver.

It also encourages good driving behavior by imposing specific restrictions and strict sanctions during each step of the licensing process.

WHY DO WE NEED A GRADUATED LICENSING SYSTEM?

- Driving is a complex task that requires education, training and practice to master.
- Inexperienced drivers are more likely to be involved in traffic crashes and more likely to be at fault in those crashes.
- GLS allows novice drivers the chance to gain experience while controlling risks that can contribute to crashes.

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**

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LEARNER'S PERMIT

A learner's permit allows a new driver to begin the learning process of operating a motor vehicle under the supervision of an experienced driver. Applicants must hold a valid learner's permit BEFORE behind-the-wheel driver education or supervised driving on Maryland highways. Learner's permits are valid for 2 years from the date they are issued.

Requirements:

- Minimum age is 15 years and 9 months.
- If the applicant is under 16, they must provide a completed Learner's Permit School Attendance Certification form (DL-300).
- If the applicant is under 18, a parent or guardian must co-sign the learner's permit application.
- Applicants must pass a vision screening and a knowledge test.
- While driving, learner's permit holders must be accompanied by a qualified supervising driver who is 21 or older and who has held a license for a minimum of three years. The person must be seated beside the new driver at all times with no other front seat occupants. Practice Logs are available to guide practice in several driving situations and conditions.
- Learner's permit holders younger than 18 are prohibited from using a wireless communication device (**including** hands-free devices) while operating a motor vehicle, with the exception of a 911 emergency call.
- All passengers of a learner's permit driver must be properly restrained by a seat belt or in a child safety seat.
- 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.
 - If you are under age 25 you must complete and document 60 hours of practice driving, including 10 hours at night.
 - If you are age 25 or older, you must complete and document 14 hours of practice driving, including 3 hours at night.

- Learner's permit holders younger than 25 must hold their learner's permit for 9 months without a conviction or Probation Before Judgment (PBJ) for any moving violation.
- Learner's permit holders 25 or older must hold their learner's permit for at least 45 days without a conviction or Probation Before Judgment (PBJ) for any moving violation.
- A conviction or Probation Before Judgment for a moving violation will restart the holding period for all Learner's Permit holders.

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PROVISIONAL LICENSE

After gaining experience driving with a learner's permit, maintaining a conviction-free or Probation before Judgment (PBJ)-free driving record, and completing a standardized driver education course, new drivers are eligible for a provisional license.

Requirements:

- Minimum age is 16 years and 6 months.
- Applicants must successfully complete a standardized driver education course including 30 hours of in-class and six hours of behind-the-wheel instruction. Driver education providers electronically submit the applicant's course completion information directly to the MVA.
- Applicants must pass a skills test administered both on a closed course and in traffic. The 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.

If younger than 18, provisional licenses will carry 4 restrictions:

- 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.
- not allowed to have passengers under the age of 18 during the first 5 months (151 days) of the provisional period, 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 stepbrother of the provisional license holder; or a relative of the license holder who lives at the same address.

- Everyone must be properly restrained by a seat belt or in a child safety seat.
- prohibited from using a wireless communication device (**including** hands-free devices) while operating a motor vehicle, with the exception of a 911 emergency call. Use of a GPS device is permitted.

Convictions or "Probation Before Judgment"

(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 Judgment (PBJ) will also restart the 18-month minimum holding 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

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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.

Requirements:

- Minimum age is 18 years.
- If younger than 21, the license will carry an alcohol restriction.
- 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.