

# Graduated Driver Licensing Law

Applies to those applying for or receiving Learner's or Intermediate Licenses after 7/31/09.

License Stage	Minimum Age	Restrictions
<b>Hardship License (optional)</b>	<b>14</b>	<p><u>SUPERVISION</u> → Limited unsupervised driving based on hardship qualifications.</p> <p><u>SEAT BELTS</u> → Use required.</p> <p><u>CELL PHONE</u> → No cell phone or other interactive wireless communication device used for talking, texting or emailing while driving (emergency use only).</p> <p><u>PASSENGERS</u> → No unrelated minor passengers (under 21) allowed unless there is a licensed driver 21 years of age or older in the front passenger seat.</p> <p><u>NIGHTTIME DRIVING</u> → No driving between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m., unless there is a licensed driver who is 21 years of age or older in the vehicle, or driving to or from a school activity, church activity, a job, or in case of an emergency.</p>
<b>Learner's License</b>	<b>14</b>	<p><u>SUPERVISION</u> → Driver must be accompanied by a licensed driver at least 21 years of age at all times.</p> <p><u>SEAT BELTS</u> → Use required.</p> <p><u>CELL PHONE</u> → No cell phone or other interactive wireless communication device used for talking, texting or emailing while driving (emergency use only).</p>
<b>Intermediate License</b>	<b>16</b>	<p><u>SUPERVISION</u> → If 16, when applying for first licensure, licensed adult supervision is required for first 6 months.</p> <p><u>SEAT BELTS</u> → Use required.</p> <p><u>CELL PHONE</u> → No cell phone or other interactive wireless communication device used for talking, texting or emailing while driving (emergency use only).</p> <p><u>PASSENGERS</u> → No more than 1 unrelated minor passenger (under 21) allowed unless there is a licensed driver 21 years of age or older in the front passenger seat.</p> <p><u>NIGHTTIME DRIVING</u> → No driving between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m., unless there is a licensed driver who is 21 years of age or older in the vehicle, or driving to or from a school activity, church activity, a job, or in case of an emergency.</p>
<b>Unrestricted License</b>	<b>18</b>	<p><u>SEAT BELTS</u> → Use required.</p> <p><u>CELL PHONE</u> → Hands-free cell phone use allowed for those ages 18-21. No texting allowed (emergency use only).</p>

## Violations

- If any restrictions are violated, penalties could include a citation and suspension of license for up to 6 months.
- No crash or traffic violations for at least 6 months prior to application for Learner's Hardship or Intermediate license.
- No serious violation for at least 12 months prior to application for Unrestricted license.

Over the last ten years, an average of one teen died in a car crash every four days (CDC).

**Arkansas teens** have rates of motor vehicle death that are **nearly twice as high** as the United States overall (CDC).

Over the last 7 years, **motor vehicle crashes** have been the **leading cause of death** for Arkansas teens (CDC).

**858 Arkansas teens** ages 14-19 were **killed** as a result of motor vehicle crashes from 2000-2009 (CDC).

## **Will Arkansas' GDL laws help keep teens safe? YES.**

The most restrictive graduated driver licensing programs are associated with reductions of 38 percent and 40 percent in fatal crashes and injury crashes, respectively, of 16 year-old-drivers.

The overall reductions, for all three-stage GDL programs combined, are 11 percent for fatal crashes and 19 percent for injury crashes. (John Hopkins, 2007)

### **Arkansas Law**

#### **Graduated Driver License**

Arkansas Code § 27-16-804(f)

#### **Hardship License**

Arkansas Code § 27-16-804(b)

#### **Fewer Distractions Mean Safer Driving Act and Paul's Law/Wireless Telephone to Engage in Text Messaging**

Arkansas Code § 27-51-1501

Arkansas Code § 27-51-1502



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SAFETY OFFICE