Teens are at the highest risk of being involved in a car crash during their first 12 to 24 months of driving. Some of the leading causes of teen crashes include distraction, carry passengers, nighttime driving and speed.

(NHTSA)

A teen driver’s fatality risk increases by 44 percent with one passenger, doubles with two passengers and quadruples when carrying three or more passengers.

American Automobile Association (AAA)

The more guided experience a young driver has, the safer that driver will be on the road.

More than 40 percent of teen driver fatal crashes occur between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.

For more information on teen driver safety:

www.njteendriving.com/
THE GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSE PROGRAM FOR FIRST TIME DRIVERS

New Jersey residents who have never had a driver license must follow New Jersey’s Graduated Driver License (GDL) program to get their first unrestricted basic driver license. The GDL is designed to give new drivers increased, step-by-step instruction and driving experience on the road to obtaining a basic driver license. The GDL has been proven to save lives among new drivers and their passengers.

THE FACTS ABOUT THE LAW

- May not drive between 11:01 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.
- May only transport one passenger, unless the driver is accompanied by a parent or guardian or the passengers are the driver’s dependants (children)
- Can not use a cell phone (hand-held or hands-free), hand-held video games or any other hand-held wireless electronic devices (i.e., iPods, GPS)
- Must ensure that they and all of their passengers wear seat belts
- Must display the GDL decal on any vehicle they drive
- Face a fine of $100 for a violation under the GDL
- May not plea bargain any point carrying offense

NEW JERSEY’S GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSE PROGRAM

PERMIT STAGE

A. SPECIAL LEARNER’S PERMIT REQUIREMENTS
- Be at least 16 years old
- Obtain consent of a parent or guardian
- Enroll in an approved behind-the-wheel driver training course
- Pass the knowledge and vision test

B. EXAMINATION PERMIT REQUIREMENTS
- Be at least 17 years old
- Obtain consent of a parent or guardian
- Pass the knowledge and vision test
- Practice supervised driving for at least a 6 month period of time

LICENSE STAGE

A. PROBATIONARY LICENSE REQUIREMENTS
- Be at least 17 years old
- Pass the MVC road test
- Practice unsupervised driving for at least a 12 month period of time

B. BASIC DRIVER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS
- Be at least 18 years old
- Complete the unsupervised 12 month practice driving period
- Pay the required fee

PERMIT AND PROBATIONARY LICENSE RESTRICTIONS

DRIVING HOURS

- Restriction does not apply to drivers 21 years of age or older
- To qualify for the work or religious exemption, drivers must carry legible documentation on letterhead signed by the employer, organization or religious institution stating the reasons for the request to exempt from the curfew restriction. The letter must include signature, title, address and telephone number of the designated official.

NO DRIVING BETWEEN 11:01 PM - 5:00 AM

NO MORE THAN ONE (1) PASSENGER

- Restriction does not apply to drivers 21 years of age or older
- Unless the teen is accompanied by a Parent/Guardian or the passengers are the driver’s dependents (children)

GDL DECAL
- Placement on Front and Rear License Plates
- (Removable) $4 a pair available at Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) locations throughout New Jersey

ELECTRONIC DEVICES
- No use of cell phones (handheld or hands-free), iPods etc.

SEATBELTS
- REQUIRED

PLEA BARGAIN AGREEMENTS
- BANNED
- Effective September 17, 2008, the Attorney General banned municipal prosecutors from offering plea agreements to all GDL holders.

For more information about the GDL licensing process, please visit www.njmv.gov

New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission