**GDL: Graduated Driver Licensing in Montana**

**STEP 1**

**LEARNER**

**LICENSE**

**WHEN:** Starts with the LearnerLicense obtained in a state-approved driver education program no earlier than age 14½ or with a Learner License without driver education at age 16 or older.

Teens with a Learner License can ONLY be supervised by a licensed parent/guardian or licensed adult authorized by the parent/guardian.

The parent/guardian who signed the driver license application is legally liable for any damages or losses resulting from a crash when the teen driver is behind the wheel.

**HOW LONG:** One year.

**Supervised driving** is for a minimumof **six months and 50 hours** **-** **10** **hours must be at night**. Practice in

varied weather, traffic, and road conditions.

**CONDITIONS: Seat belts use required:** each occupant must weara seat belt. The driver must remain free from traffic violations and alcohol/drug offenses.

**STEP 2**

**GDL RESTRICTED LICENSE**

**WHEN:** Teens may apply to driveindependently after successful completion of Step 1, with parent/ guardian certification of 50 hours of supervised driving practice, and no traffic violations and alcohol/drug offenses.

**HOW LONG:** One year or whendriver reaches age 18.

**CONDITIONS: Seat belt use required:** each occupant must weara seat belt.

**Curfew from 11 pm to 5 am:**

Darkness increases crash risk , so night driving is **not allowed** **between 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.,**

unless travel is for school, church, work, or farm-related activities.

**Limit passengers:** For the **first** sixmonths may have only **one** **passenger**; for the **second** sixmonths may have up to **three** **passengers.** Others allowed ifpassengers are family members or the teen is being supervised by a licensed adult driver.

**STEP 3**

**FULL PRIVILEGE DRIVER LICENSE**

**WHEN:** Upon successful completionof Steps 1 and 2 or when driver reaches age 18.

Montana's **GRADUATED DRIVER** **LICENSING** (GDL) law (MCA 61.5.132-

1. is a three-step program that reduces the risk while new drivers under age 18 develop and improve their driving skills. Teens still get to drive—with supervision—and gradually gain experience to begin driving on their own, but with **restrictions** on night driving andpassengers.

Young drivers face the highest crash risk in darkness and each teen passenger doubles the crash risk. Safety research is clear that newly licensed drivers should start driving with no young passengers.

Learning to drive is a complex, ongoing process that requires **responsibility** and thousands of milesof **practice** to develop competence, skill, and judgment. Just like with sports and music, good habits and abilities grow through experience and good coaching.

**Penalties—GDL Law Violations**

**First Offense** – Not less than 20 hours or more than 60 hours ofcommunity service.

**Second Offense –** Suspension of restricted driver license for six months.

After teens have their full privilege license, parents should **continue to** **drive** with their teen, monitor, model,and enforce the rules, and encourage safe driving habits.

**For more GDL information and resources, visit www.opi.mt.gov or call the Traffic Education Office at (406) 444-4432.**

**Revised May 2017**

**PRACTICE DRIVING LOG**

*Use this log to track your teen’s 50 hours of practice driving (including 10 hours at night)* ***OR*** *consider using a mobile application log, such as “*[*RoadReady”*](http://www.roadreadyapp.com/) *for IOS devices or “*[*Fast Track Driving Log Free”*](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.lonecoder.fasttrackfree&hl=en) *for Android devices.*

**

This Driving Log belongs to:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Conditions & Skills** | **Amount Initials** |
|  | **EX: intersections, full** | **of Time** |
|  |  |
|  | **stops, yields, scanning** |  |
|  | **for hazards** |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Conditions & Skills** | **Amount Initials** |
|  | **EX: intersections, full** | **of Time** |
|  |  |
|  | **stops, yields, scanning** |  |
|  | **for hazards** |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**TOTAL TIME**

X

*Parent/Guardian*

X

*Teen Driver*