



Intermediate Driver License and Requirements

The following document has many pieces directly from the Washington State Department of Licensing but as been edited as needed to reflect Freedom Driving School.

Before getting a driver license, a teen must:

- Be at least 16 years if age.
- Pass a traffic safety education course, like our AAA How to Drive packages.
- Have an instruction permit for at least 6 months.
- Get at least 50 hours of supervised driving practice (including 10 hours at night) with someone who has been licensed for 5 years or more. For help in supervising driving practice, use the:
 - Washington State Parent Guide to Driving which included a logbook

How to get a license:

Once you have completed these steps, visit a driver licensing office and:

- Present a signed certificate showing you have passed an approved traffic safety education course. (Freedom Driving School presents these to students after the successful completion of our AAA How to Drive packages). If you do not have a copy of your certificate, ask at our locations or if the education was completed elsewhere ask the school for a copy before you apply for your license. If the school you used previously has closed, contact the Department of Licensing at tse@dol.wa.gov for 360-902-0110.
- Have a parent or guardian grant permission and confirm your driving practice by signing the Parental Authorization Affidavit at the licensing office.
- Pass a Knowledge (written) test (if you have not previously taken a knowledge test), we offer Knowledge Testing at Freedom Driving School.
- Pass a driving test (Skills Test), we offer Skills Testing at Freedom Driving School.
- Pass a vision screening.
- Provide proof you are a Washington State resident. You may use your parent or guardian's residence address, as long as they live in Washington State and can present a Washington State driver license, ID card, or other documents to prove residence.
- Present proof of identity.
- Provide your social security number or sign a declaration if you do not have one.

Special rules for teen drivers:

When teen get a driver license, they must follow some special rules and restrictions. These rules are in place to help protect teen drivers from accidents and help them develop and improve skills in the safest way.

If you are under 18 you will be issued an intermediate driver license and must follow these special rules:



- For the first 6 months, you cannot drive with passengers under the age of 20 unless they are members of your immediate family (such as spouse, child, stepchild, or sibling, both by birth or marriage).
- For the next 6 months you may not carry more than 3 passengers who are under 20 years old who are not members of your immediate family.
- For the first 12 months, you cannot drive between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. unless you are with a licensed driver age 25 or older. The only exception to this rule is if you drive for agricultural purposes, meaning you transport farm products or supplies under the direction of a farmer (See RCW 46.20.070).

After 1 year of following these rules and driving without a collision or traffic citation, you can drive without limitations to the time of day or the age and number of your passengers.

When you turn 18, these special rules no longer apply, and your intermediate license automatically becomes a regular license.

What if I get a traffic citation or violate these special rules?

- If you violate these special rules for teens, commit any other driving violation, or are in a collision, you will be sent a warning letter by the Department of Licensing.
- If you commit 2 driving violations, you will be sent a letter that suspends your driving privileges for 6 months or until age 18, whichever is shorter.
- If you commit 3 driving violations, your license will be suspended until age 18.
- Your parents will receive a copy of any warning or suspension letter sent to you.

Once you have a year of driving safely without a driving violation or accident, the passenger and nighttime driving restrictions expire and will not be reinstated. However, if you are under 18 you are still subject to receiving the warning letter and license suspension penalties.