

Driving Laws & Information Everyone Should Know

See our classroom Web site for more law updates!

Teens with permits may drive while supervised by a parent or legal guardian who is 21 years old or older, has an equal or greater license classification as the driver, and has held a valid license for at least one year.

1) Alcohol Use: Persons under 21 do not need to be in your vehicle to violate the Zero Tolerance Law. Possession of, consumption of, or attempt to purchase alcohol will result in a \$125 fine and loss of your license for ONE YEAR.

2) Parents should know that it is a Class 4 Felony, with a possible imprisonment of 1-3 years and a fine of up to \$25,000, to knowingly allow individuals under 21 to drink in their home if great bodily harm or death results from this action.

3) Drivers under age 19 **MAY NOT USE A CELL PHONE WHILE DRIVING** in Illinois. This is a moving violation.

4) Court Supervision Laws: You are allowed **TWO** court supervisions in your lifetime. Court supervisions in multiple Illinois counties are on record. Court supervision means your traffic violations are hidden from insurance companies so your rates don't go up. Court supervisions **ARE NOT** hidden from the Secretary of State's office! Also, a parent must go before the judge with the teen driver to in order for the teen to receive court supervision.

5) During the first 12 MONTHS of driving with your license, you are allowed only **ONE PERSON UNDER AGE 20** in your vehicle, unless they are your siblings or your own child. Passengers in violation of this law will also be ticketed.

6) **ONE BEER** shows on a breathalyzer no matter how much you weigh.

7) Driving Under the Influence (DUI) also includes any **PRESCRIPTION DRUGS** that impair your driving.

8) Your **BEHAVIOR**, not just odor of alcohol, can be probable cause to check you for DUI.

9) The message the Secretary of State is trying to send with DUI laws is "**DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!**"

10) Curfew: your driver's license **IS NOT VALID AFTER CURFEW** **and** your insurance company therefore will **NOT PAY** for costs of an accident. (Jobs/school & church activities are excused from the curfew law.) Curfew for teen drivers (16- and 17-year-olds) is 10 p.m. on weekdays and 11 p.m. on weekends.

11) A driver with a permit **CANNOT BE A DESIGNATED DRIVER** for someone who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs. You could lose your driving privileges until you are 18.

12) Photo Radar is now being used in some Illinois construction zones. It takes a photo of the speeding car's license plate and driver. Violators will receive a citation in the mail.

13) Parents can access their teen's driving record online at www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

14) You must carry proof of auto insurance in your vehicle.

15) Driver education students must have their permit for 9 consecutive months with no convictions before they can get their initial license. If you receive a driving conviction, the 9 months starts over. After receiving your initial license, you must drive conviction free for six months to enter the full license phase in which Graduated Drivers License restrictions are dropped.

New Law That Went Into Effect January 1, 2010:

Texting while driving is illegal in Illinois; This Distracted Driving Law also makes illegal **ANY** use of a cell phone in a school zone or a construction zone. Drivers under 19 may not use a cell phone at all when driving except for emergency.