



# Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act

## What You Need to Know About TADRA Laws

Sonny Perdue - Governor  
State of Georgia



Alert: Joshua's Law - New for 2007



## What You Need to Know About TADRA

The Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act (TADRA) continues to make strides in creating safer Georgia roads for the motoring public.

**TADRA directly addresses the leading killer of our young people—traffic crashes.**

The law significantly changes the way young motorists earn and maintain the privilege of driving by providing a controlled means for new drivers to gain experience and by reducing high-risk driving situations. While the law does focus on young drivers, it also contains important provisions that affect drivers over 21, particularly in the area of DUI prevention and enforcement.

### STARTING JANUARY 1, 2007, JOSHUA'S LAW GOES INTO EFFECT

**Drivers 16 years old** wanting to obtain their Class D license will need to complete an approved driver education course which includes a licensed private or public driver training school or other training approved by the Department of Driver Services. A total of at least 40 hours of other supervised driving, including 6 at night, is also required.

**Drivers 17 years old** wanting to obtain their Class D license will need a total of at least 40 hours of supervised driving, including 6 at night. Driving training is not mandated for 17-year-olds, although it is highly recommended.

Specific information about these requirements is available at [www.gateendrivereducation.com](http://www.gateendrivereducation.com).

**ALL SUPERVISED DRIVING MUST BE  
VERIFIED IN WRITING BY A PARENT OR  
GUARDIAN OVER 18 YEARS OLD.**

## What You Need to Know About Earning a License

The Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act establishes graduated driver licensing for Georgians between the ages of 15 to 18, with three separate classifications.

### Step 1: Instruction Permit (Class CP)

This is granted to 15-year-olds upon passage of a written examination. While driving, the permit holder must be accompanied by a licensed (Class C) adult 21 years of age or older in the front seat who is capable of exercising control of the vehicle.

### Step 2: Intermediate License (Class D)

This license is granted to drivers between 16 and 18 years of age who have held an Instruction Permit for 12 months without committing any major traffic violations and have passed a comprehensive on road driving test.

The Intermediate License has the following restrictions effective January 1, 2007:

- A Class D License Holder may not drive between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- During the first six (6) months following issuance, only immediate family members may ride in the vehicle.
- During the second six (6) months following issuance, only one (1) passenger under 21 years of age who is not a member of the driver's immediate family may ride in the vehicle.
- After the first and second six-month period, only three (3) passengers under 21 years of age who are not members of the driver's immediate family may ride in the vehicle.
- Driver education requirements must be met prior to initial issuance. For specific requirements, please visit [www.gateendrivereducation.com](http://www.gateendrivereducation.com).

### Special Notes:

- Class D drivers receiving their license prior to January 1, 2007 are also subject to the new curfew and passenger restrictions effective January 1, 2007.
- The supervised driving requirement also applies to an initial Class C license applicant who has not previously been issued a Class D license.
- Visit the GOHS Website ([www.gahighwaysafety.org](http://www.gahighwaysafety.org)) for a copy of a Teen Driver/Parent Agreement and also click on the "Links" to Department of Driver Services for a Supervised Driving Log.

### Step 3: Full License (Class C)

For drivers 18 years of age or older who hold a Class D license, this license is granted if there have been no major traffic convictions for the previous 12 months. License must be upgraded to Class C or you will be held to Class D restrictions regardless of your age.

## What You Need to Know About TADRA Violations

A driver can only move to the next level if he or she has completed 12 consecutive months without a conviction for any of the following:

- DUI
- Fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer
- Racing
- Reckless driving
- Hit and run / leaving the scene of an accident
- Any moving violation for which four or more points are assessable

### Suspension of License

If a driver under the age of 21 is convicted for any of the following offenses, their license will be suspended for 6 months (1st offense) or 12 months (2nd offense).

- Fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer
- Racing
- Reckless driving
- Hit and run / leaving the scene of an accident
- Purchase of an alcoholic beverage
- Misrepresenting age for the purpose of illegally obtaining any alcoholic beverage
- Misrepresenting identity or using false identification for the purpose of purchasing or obtaining any alcoholic beverage
- Any moving violation for which four or more points are assessable
- For drivers under age 18, an accumulation of four or more points in a 12-month period will also result in a suspension.
- A first conviction for DUI in which the driver's blood-alcohol concentration is 0.08 grams or higher will result in a 12-month suspension.

## What You Need to Know About School & Your License

### School Attendance Required

No individual under the age of 18 can obtain a driver's license or instruction permit unless he or she is attending a public school, a private school, or is enrolled in home schooling authorized by law; or has graduated from high school, received a certificate of high school completion; or has completed his or her secondary education and is enrolled in a post-secondary school.

If a student under the age of 18 drops out of school and has remained out of school for 10 days, or has 10 or more school days of unexcused absences in any current school year or previous school year, notice will be given by the school to the Department of Driver Services. The student's driver's license will then be suspended for one year or until their 18th birthday.

### School / Suspension

A student's driver's license will be suspended for one year or until their 18th birthday if the student has been found in violation by a hearing officer, panel, or tribunal of one of the following offenses, has received a change in placement for committing one of the following offenses, or has waived his or her right to a hearing and pleaded guilty to one of the following offenses:

- Threatening, striking or causing bodily harm to a teacher or other school personnel
- Possession or sale of drugs or alcohol on school grounds or at a school sponsored event
- Possession or use of a weapon on school grounds or at a school sponsored event
- Any sexual offense prohibited under Chapter 6 of Title 16
- Causing substantial physical or visible bodily harm to or seriously disfiguring another person, including another student.

### Hardship Exemption

A hardship exemption may be granted by the Department of Driver Services in certain situations following a license suspension. Further details are available at [www.dds.ga.gov](http://www.dds.ga.gov).

# What You Need to Know About DUI Laws

## **Punishments for a DUI conviction under the age of 21 include:**

### **For the FIRST offense: (under .08%)**

A blood-alcohol content of .02% or greater is considered DUI for any driver under the age of 21.

- Suspension of driver's license for 6 months with no provision for a limited permit or early reinstatement.
- No nolo contendere plea.
- Attendance at a DUI school.
- At least 20 hours of community service, to begin within 60 days of sentencing.
- Loss of ability to obtain next Graduated License level for 12 months.

### **For the FIRST offense: (.08% or more)**

Punishment is the same as for the first offense under .08% except:

- Mandatory jail term not less than 24 hours.
- Community service not less than 40 hours.
- Suspension of license for 12 months, with no reinstatement prior to the end of the suspension period.

### **For the SECOND offense:**

Punishment is the same as for the first offense except:

- For drivers 18 years and older, suspension of driver's license for a minimum of 18 months, with a provision of ignition interlock permit after 12 months.
- Community service not less than 30 days.
- Clinical evaluation and treatment if indicated.
- Mandatory jail term not less than 72 hours.
- The court will order a person convicted of a 2nd and subsequent DUI to surrender all license plates registered in his or her name to the court.

If the offender is under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court due to age, the sentence will be served at a Youth Development Center (YDC) or be placed in the Sheriff's custody. In all cases, the offender will be separated from the main prison population. Regardless of age, the judge will still have the discretion to sentence the driver for a misdemeanor with graduated punishment, depending on the number of prior offenses.

# What You Need to Know

Any person over 21 convicted of DUI with a blood-alcohol content of .08 or higher may be ordered to serve a period of imprisonment of up to 12 months, and 24 hours of that sentence may not be suspended or probated. Those persons will also continue to be subject to a \$1,000 fine for the first offense.

## **Other DUI provisions**

### **For drivers 21 and over, include:**

- The nolo contendere plea for DUI charges will be treated as a conviction for all drivers.
- Upon a second DUI conviction, the offender will face a mandatory clinical evaluation and, if indicated, will have to complete a substance abuse treatment program at the offender's expense.
- The court will order a person convicted of a 2nd or subsequent DUI to have an ignition interlock device attached to his or her vehicle(s).
- The court will order a person convicted of a 2nd or subsequent DUI to surrender all license plates registered to his or her name to the court.
- There are provisions for the offender to obtain a license tag for any car used by other family members, and the existence of the special tag will not be probable cause for a traffic stop, search of the vehicle, or seizure.

For More Information:

**Governor's Office of Highway Safety**  
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Suite 800  
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(404) 656-6996 or  
1-888-420-0767  
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[www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov)

