

2020  
**ILLINOIS**  
**RULES**  
OF THE ROAD



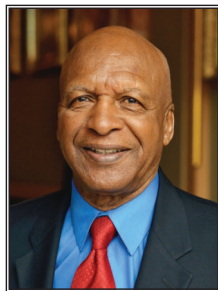
JESSE  WHITE  
SECRETARY OF STATE

# Illinois Rules of the Road 2020



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Illinois continues to be a national leader in traffic safety. Over the last decade, traffic fatalities in our state have declined significantly. This is due in large part to innovative efforts to combat drunk and distracted driving, as well as stronger guidelines for new teen drivers. The driving public's increased awareness and avoidance of hazardous driving behaviors are critical for Illinois to see a further decline in traffic fatalities.



Beginning Oct. 1, 2021, the federal government will require your driver's license or ID card (DL/ID) to be REAL ID compliant for use as identification to board domestic flights and to enter military bases or secure federal facilities. Not every person needs a REAL ID card, which is why we offer you a choice. You decide if you need a REAL ID or standard DL/ID. More information is available on the following pages.

The application process for a REAL ID-compliant DL/ID requires enhanced security measures that meet mandated federal guidelines. As a result, you must provide documentation confirming your identity, Social Security number, residency and signature.

Please note there is no immediate need to apply for a REAL ID-compliant DL/ID. Current Illinois DL/IDs will be accepted to board domestic flights and to enter military bases or secure federal facilities until Oct. 1, 2021. For more information about the Real ID program, visit **REALID**.ilsos.gov or call 833-503-4074.

As Secretary of State, I will continue to maintain the highest standards when it comes to traffic safety and public service in Illinois.

*Jesse White*

Jesse White  
Illinois Secretary of State

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goes into effect **October 1, 2021.**

**Your current Illinois driver's license or ID card (DL/ID) will be accepted at airports, military bases and secure federal facilities until Oct. 1, 2021. We are providing you with the choice either to obtain a REAL ID card or to keep a standard card. Take time to know your options.**

You **DO NOT NEED** a REAL ID if:

- You have a valid U.S. passport or passport card; or
- You do **not** use airplanes as a mode of domestic transportation; or
- You do **not** visit military bases; or
- You do **not** visit secure federal facilities.

You **NEED** a REAL ID if:

- You do **not** have a valid U.S. passport or passport card; AND
- You use airplanes as a mode of domestic transportation; or
- You visit military bases; or
- You visit secure federal facilities.

Action	Standard DL/ID	REAL ID DL/ID
Driving (DL only)	YES	YES
Using for general identification purposes	YES	YES
Boarding a domestic flight (U.S.) after Oct. 1, 2021	NO	YES
Entering a military base or secure federal facility after Oct. 1, 2021	NO	YES

**For additional information:**

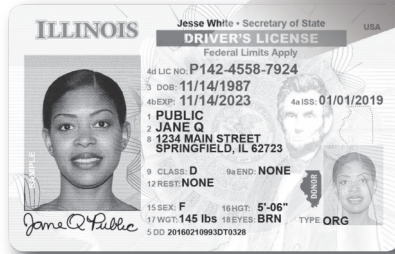
**833-503-4074**

or visit:

**REALID.ilsos.gov**

# Know your options.

**Federal Limits Apply**



Standard Card  
Designation

## Application Process for Standard Driver's License or ID

*If your DL/ID is currently valid and not expiring soon, you do not need to do anything.*

**STEP 1:** If your DL/ID is expiring soon, visit a Secretary of State Driver Services facility and take your photo and the required exams.

**STEP 2:** Receive a temporary, secure paper DL/ID at the facility.

**STEP 3:** After review and verification of documents have been conducted, your new permanent standard DL/ID will be mailed to you within 15 business days.

**Fees for a Real ID and a standard DL/ID are the same.**



**For domestic travel, a U.S. passport or a REAL ID card is acceptable.**

**For international travel, a U.S. passport is necessary.**

**For additional information about passports:  
npic@state.gov or 877-487-2778**

**For additional information:  
833-503-4074**

# Make the choice that is right for you.



REAL ID  
Gold Star  
Designation

## Application Process for REAL ID Driver's License or ID

**STEP 1:** Visit a Secretary of State Driver Services facility and take your photo and the required exams.

**STEP 2:** All applicants must provide proof of identity. (Examples are: a U.S. birth certificate, a U.S. passport, an employment authorization document, a permanent resident card or a foreign passport with an approved I-94 form.) *\*Please note that name change documents, such as a marriage certificate, will be required if the applicant presents a birth certificate with a name different from his/her current name.*

**STEP 3:** All applicants must provide proof of full Social Security number (SSN). (Examples are: an SSN card, a W-2 or a pay stub with full SSN.)

**STEP 4:** All applicants must provide two current residency documents with the applicant's name. (Examples are: a utility bill, rental agreement, deed/title or bank statement.)

**STEP 5:** All applicants must provide proof of signature. (Examples are: a credit/debit card, canceled check or current Illinois DL/ID.)

**STEP 6:** Receive a temporary, secure paper DL/ID at the facility. *\*Please note that the TSA and federal agents will not accept the paper document.*

**STEP 7:** After review and verification of documents have been conducted, your new permanent REAL ID card will be mailed to you within 15 business days.

**\*For a complete list of acceptable documents for steps 2-5, please visit:**

**REALID.ilsos.gov**

—◆—  
*Has Your*  
**NAME CHANGED?**

*Need a*  
**REAL ID?**

*Be prepared, here is how*  
—◆—

**If the name on your birth certificate is DIFFERENT than your current legal name, the federal government requires additional documents to verify your identity.**

**Accepted documents to prove identity if your name has changed:**

- Certified marriage certificate (certified by the County Clerk's office, a certificate issued by a church is not acceptable)
- Court-certified name change order  
(Copies of documents are not acceptable.)

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- Multiple name change documents will be required if your name has changed multiple times.
- If you have a valid passport with your current legal name, additional documents are NOT required.

**For more information, call 833-503-4074.**



**REALID.ilsos.gov**

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This edition of the *Illinois Rules of the Road* is as accurate as possible at the time of publication. The booklet contains information you must know to pass the written test on traffic laws and signs in order to obtain basic driving privileges. It includes information on obtaining a driver's license, driver's license laws, traffic safety issues and general information regarding Illinois traffic laws and ordinances.

The language of the *Illinois Compiled Statutes* is condensed and paraphrased and does not cover every law or explain every possible situation that motorists may face while operating a motor vehicle. The manual also provides highway safety information not in the law. It is intended as a tool for drivers and should not be cited as a legal authority in court. Additional information and forms are available at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com).

*NOTE TO THE READER: The application process for a REAL ID-compliant document requires enhanced security measures that meet mandated federal guidelines, even if an individual already has a standard issued Illinois driver's license or ID card. As a result, applicants must provide documentation confirming their identity, Social Security number, residency and signature.*

*Unless specifically stated, the information contained in this chapter concerning the driver's license or ID card application process applies to both REAL ID-compliant and standard issued documents.*

*For more information about Illinois' REAL ID program, please visit [www.REALID.ilsos.gov](http://www.REALID.ilsos.gov) or call 833-503-4074.*

## **Chapter 1: Illinois Driver's License**

To drive legally in Illinois, a driver must have a valid Illinois driver's license. A driver's license is classified by the gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of the operator's vehicle. For a list of all driver classifications, see page 103.

A driver seeking a basic license to operate a car in Illinois is issued a Class D license. Holders of a Class D license also may operate rental vehicles up to 26,000 pounds when transporting their own personal property or that of an immediate family member for non-business purposes within the State of Illinois. The driver is required and should be provided information to successfully complete a safety course regarding the safe operation of that vehicle from the rental company.

A driver must meet special requirements to operate a school bus, religious organization bus, child care vehicle, vehicle used in for-profit ride sharing or vehicle used for senior citizen transportation. Driver's license applicants should visit a local Driver Services facility or call the Safe Ride Section of the Secretary of State's office at 217-782-7674.

For procedures on obtaining a license to operate a motorcycle or commercial vehicle, please refer to the *Illinois Motorcycle Operator Manual*, the *Rules of the Road for Non-CDL Vehicles* or the *Commercial Driver's License Study Guide*, available at any Secretary of State facility or at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com).

For procedures on obtaining a temporary visitor driver's license, please refer to the *Temporary Visitor Driver's License Quick Guide* available at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com).

### **Age Restrictions — Drivers 16-21**

Applicants must be at least age 18 to obtain an Illinois driver's license. The following exceptions apply:

- Applicants age 16 or 17 may receive their license if they successfully complete a state-approved driver education course, complete 50 hours of practice driving and pass the three parts of the driver's license exam. If a parent cannot accompany a minor to the facility, an Affidavit/Consent for Minor to Drive must be signed by a legal guardian or a responsible adult over age 21. For more information about obtaining a driver's license before age 18, see page 16.
- If the individual is a first-time Illinois driver's license applicant, is age 18, 19 or 20, and has never been licensed or completed an approved high school or commercial school driver education program, he/she must successfully complete a six-hour Adult Driver Education Course through a Secretary of State certified adult driver education provider before obtaining a license. More information is available by visiting [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com).
- A driver under age 18 is not allowed to drive any vehicle for-hire transporting property (e.g., delivery persons) or any vehicle requiring a commercial driver's license.
- A driver under age 21 is not allowed to drive any vehicle for-hire that is transporting more than 10 passengers, a commuter van, a religious organization bus, a school bus, a vehicle transporting senior citizens or a child care vehicle.

## **Exemptions**

Individuals may drive in Illinois without a valid Illinois driver's license if they meet one of the following circumstances:

- Have permanently moved to Illinois from another state or country and have a valid non-Illinois driver's license. The driver must obtain an Illinois license within 90 days or before his/her driver's license expires, whichever comes first.
- Are visiting or driving through Illinois and have a valid driver's license from their home state or country.
- Are an out-of-state student attending an Illinois college/university; they and their spouse and children may drive with a valid license from their home state or country.
- Are on active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces; they and their spouse and dependent children living with them may drive with a valid license from their home state.
- Are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces outside the United States, but are a legal resident of Illinois; they and their spouse and dependent children living with them may drive during the first 120 days of their return if they previously obtained a deferral of their driver's license.
- Are serving as a civilian employee for the U.S. Armed Forces or the U.S. Department of Defense outside the United States, but are a legal resident of Illinois; they and their spouse and dependent children living with them may drive during the first 120 days of their return if they previously obtained a deferral of their driver's license.
- Are employed by the U.S. government or a member of the U.S. Armed Forces; they do not need a valid Illinois license if traveling on official business and driving a vehicle owned by or leased to the government.
- Are operating a road machine temporarily on the roadway or farm tractor between the farm buildings and nearby farmland.

## **Changing the Name/Address on an Illinois Driver's License/ID Card**

An Illinois driver's license or ID card holder who has legally changed his/her name must apply for a corrected driver's license/ID card. This must be done within 30 days of the name change. The driver must provide documentation that links the new name to the name on the current driver's license/ID card and on file with the Secretary of State's office. The name displayed on the driver's license/ID card will be the full given name and surname as recorded at birth, at marriage, by the Social Security Administration or as otherwise established through legal action.

A driver's license or ID card holder must notify the Secretary of State's office of an address change within 10 days of any move by: visiting a Driver Services facility, visiting [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com), or writing to the Secretary of State, Driver Services Department, Address Change, 2701 S. Dirksen Pkwy., Springfield, IL 62723.

Driver's license or ID card holders will not receive a new document reflecting the address change unless they visit a facility, present acceptable documents to prove residency including a valid mailing address (see page 104), and pay the appropriate fee.

## **Document/ID Requirements for Driver's License/ID Card**

To receive an Illinois driver's license/ID card, applicants must provide acceptable forms of identification to prove their legal name, date of birth, Social Security number, residency and signature. Please refer to the Acceptable Identification Documents chart on page 104 for a list of documents that may be used. Applicants should note the following:

- Signature comparison is required in the verification process.
- The number of documents required depends on whether an applicant is applying for a driver's license/ID card for the first time or requesting a duplicate or corrected driver's license/ID card.
- A person must provide a valid mailing address at the time of application.

Applicants will be required to have a photo taken, surrender all other Illinois driver's licenses/identification cards/instruction permits, pass the appropriate exams and pay the appropriate fee.

An applicant applying for a temporary visitor driver's license should refer to the *Temporary Visitor Driver's License Quick Guide* for document requirements.

### **First-time REAL ID-Compliant Driver's License/ID Card Applicant**

Applicants applying for a REAL ID-compliant driver's license/ID card for the first time (even if they already hold a standard issued driver's license/ID card) are required to present the documentation of the following:

- Proof of identity\* (including U.S. citizenship or lawful status);
- Proof of date of birth;
- Proof of Social Security number;
- Proof of signature; and
- Two documents to prove Illinois residency.

\*If an applicant brings identity documents with a name different from his/her current legal name (such as a certified birth certificate), he/she must bring additional documentation indicating the reason for the name change (such as a certified marriage certificate, adoption papers, etc.).

### **First-time Standard Issued Illinois Driver's License/ID Card Applicant**

An applicant applying for a standard issued Illinois driver's license/ID card for the first time is required to present documentation of the following:

- Proof of date of birth;
- Proof of Social Security number;
- Proof of residency (one document); and
- Proof of signature.

Please refer to the Acceptable Identification Documents Chart on page 104 for a list of documents that may be used. One document may satisfy more than one group.

Those applying for a disabled ID card must also present a form entitled Application for an Illinois Person with a Disability Identification Card. This form must be properly completed and signed by a medical professional.

### **Duplicate/Corrected Driver's License/ID Card**

An applicant applying for either a duplicate or corrected driver's license/ID card is required to present documentation of the following:

- Proof of date of birth;
- Proof of Social Security number;
- Proof of residency if the applicant is requesting an address change to appear on the document; and
- Proof of written signature.

An applicant requesting a change in name, date of birth, Social Security number or gender must provide identification to link the change from the previous information to the new information.

An applicant under age 60 whose license was stolen must present a police report to receive a duplicate driver's license/ID card at no cost. Persons over age 60 do not need a police report for a duplicate driver's license/ID card at no cost.

## Driver's License/ID Card Renewal

About 90 days before the license expires, an Illinois driver should receive a renewal notice from the Secretary of State's office with information on what documents must be provided and what tests are necessary. The driver may renew the license up to one year before a two- or four-year driver's license expires. A driver may renew up to six months before a one-year driver's license expires.

Drivers may not receive a renewal notice if they fail to notify the Secretary of State's office of a change of name or address. **It is the driver's responsibility to renew the license before expiration, regardless of whether a renewal letter is received.**

A driver's license is valid for four years and expires on the driver's birthday except in the following cases:

- Drivers under age 21 — license expires three months after their 21st birthday.
- Drivers ages 81-86 — license valid for two years.
- Drivers ages 87 and older — license requires annual renewal.
- Drivers holding a temporary visitor driver's license — expires in three years or upon the expiration of immigration documents.

Information on renewing and a list of acceptable documents for a temporary visitor driver's license are available by referring to the *Temporary Visitor Driver's License Quick Guide* or visiting [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com).

### Standard Renewal

To renew a driver's license, applicants must:

- Visit a Driver Services facility and present their current license/ID and renewal notice.
- Take the appropriate exam(s), if applicable.
- Pay the appropriate fee and have a new photo taken.

Applicants renewing a current Illinois driver's license or ID card that does not require name or address changes must only present their current valid driver's license or ID card. If applicants do not have their current driver's license or ID card or changes are required, they must present documentation of the following:

- Proof of date of birth;
- Social Security number;
- Proof of residency if the applicant is requesting an address change to appear on the document (two documents for REAL ID applicants and one document for standard issued applicants); and
- Proof of written signature.

If the applicant holds a REAL ID-compliant document but is not a U.S. citizen, the process for renewal is the same as if the applicant were applying for a REAL ID document for the first time. All original documentation must be presented at the Driver Services facility to prove his/her identity. See page 6 for section on First-Time REAL ID-Compliant Applicants.

Upon payment and successful completion of any required testing, the Secretary of State will issue a temporary, secure paper document, which is valid for 90 days and should be used as the document for driving purposes and proof of identification.

After a review and verification of documents, a permanent driver's license or ID card will be printed at a centralized location and mailed to the applicant, usually within 15 business days, to the address provided by the applicant at the Driver Services facility. Driver's license and/or ID cards will not be delivered by the post office if there is a forwarding order or any type of hold on mail service for the address provided by the applicant.

If applicants do not receive the permanent driver's license or identification card after 15 business days of visiting a facility, they can check the status at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com) or call 217-782-7044.

### **Safe Driver Renewal**

The Safe Driver Renewal Program enables certain drivers with a clean driving record to renew their driver's licenses from home and visit a Driver Services facility only once every eight years. An eligible driver will receive a notice in the mail detailing how to complete the renewal process online, by phone or by mail. To be eligible for Safe Driver Renewal, a driver must:

- Be ages 22-74;
- Not hold a commercial driver's license (CDL) or school bus driver permit;
- Have no traffic infractions, sanctions, crash reports or medical report review requirements; and
- Have Social Security information verified through the Social Security Online Verification System.

Note: REAL ID-compliant applicants, who are not U.S. citizens, are not eligible for Safe Driver Renewal.

### **Penalties for Driver's License/ID Card Fraud**

Persons are subject to arrest, possible imprisonment of up to five years and a 12-month suspension or revocation of their driving privileges for the following offenses:

- Signing a driver's license/ID card application that includes false information.
- Presenting false identification for the purposes of obtaining a driver's license/ID card.
- Using a fictitious or unlawfully altered driver's license/permit.
- Presenting another person's driver's license/ID card as their own.
- Allowing another person to knowingly use identification documents to apply for a driver's license/ID card using their name.

### **Medical Report**

When applying for a driver's license, applicants will be asked about any physical or mental conditions that may potentially impair their safe operation of a motor vehicle or any medications (prescribed or over-the-counter), drugs or alcohol that may impair their driving

ability. In certain instances, applicants must provide a Medical Report completed by a licensed physician verifying their medical ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. The report must be presented to the Driver Services facility personnel within 90 days from the date the physician signs it. The form is available at any Driver Services facility or at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com).

If a driver develops a medical condition that is likely to cause a loss of consciousness or any loss of ability to operate a vehicle safely, he/she must notify the Secretary of State's office within 10 days of becoming aware of the condition. Failure to do so may lead to cancellation of the driver's license and driving privileges.

## Driving Records/Abstracts

The Secretary of State keeps records of the traffic violations and crashes accumulated by a driver while licensed in Illinois. If Illinois drivers are convicted of a traffic violation while driving in another state, the offense will be included on their record. If drivers are not a resident of this state and convicted of a traffic violation in Illinois where immediate action is required, a record will be established for them in Illinois, and the traffic violation also will be reported to their home state.

Illinois drivers may purchase a copy of their driving record at select Driver Services facilities. To locate a facility, a driver may visit [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com), and click on Facility Finder. Driving records/abstracts also may be obtained by submitting a written request to: Secretary of State, Abstract Unit, 2701 S. Dirksen Pkwy., Springfield, IL 62723. The request must include the driver's full name, date of birth and driver's license number, along with the appropriate fee. The person requesting the driving record must provide proper identification. Driving abstracts may not be purchased online.

## Non-Driving Programs Related to the Driver's License

The Secretary of State's office is required to ask certain non-driving-related questions during the driver's license/ID card application process. Among these are:

- **Illinois Organ/Tissue Donor Registry** — Applicants age 16 and older will be asked to join the registry. More information on the Organ Donor Program is available by visiting [www.LifeGoesOn.com](http://www.LifeGoesOn.com) or calling 800-210-2106.
- **Veteran Designation** — A "VETERAN" designation may be placed on the face of an Illinois driver's license/ID card at the request of the card applicant. At the time of application, the applicant must provide proof of an honorable discharge from any branch of the U.S. military or retirement from the U.S. military or show service as a reservist or member of the National Guard. More information is available by visiting [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com) or calling the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs at 800-437-9824.
- **Voter Registration** — A person applying for a standard driver's license/ID card will be informed if he/she is currently registered to vote and if so, at what address. If he/she is not registered, the person will be asked if he/she wishes to register to vote or to update his/her voter registration address. The application will be electronically transmitted to the



Illinois State Board of Elections. A person applying for a Real ID compliant driver's license/ID card and who has provided proof of U.S. citizenship will be advised that his/her driver's license/ID card application will also serve as an application to register to vote, and the information will be electronically transmitted to the Illinois State Board of Elections, unless the applicant opts-out of voter registration. The Board of Elections will forward voter registration applications to the appropriate local election authority. A Temporary Visitors Driver's License applicant is not eligible to register to vote.

- **Selective Service** — Federal law requires all males ages 18-25 to register with the Selective Service System. The signature on the driver's license/ID card application of any qualifying male certifies that he has registered or, if not already registered, authorizes the Secretary of State's office to submit his information to the Selective Service System for registration.
- **Emergency Contact Database** — Illinois driver's license/ID card holders may register with the Illinois Emergency Contact Database. The program allows a person to provide emergency contact information for law enforcement or emergency responders in the event of a crash or emergency situation. Individuals registering may also provide information concerning disabilities or special medical needs. More information is available by visiting [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com).

### **Driver's License/State ID Card Fees\***

\*The cost for REAL ID-compliant DL/ID documents and standard issued documents is the same.

#### **Driver's License/Permit**

Instruction Permit.....	\$20
Driver's License, ages 18-20 .....	\$5
Driver's License, ages 21-68 .....	\$30
Driver's License, ages 69-80 .....	\$5
Driver's License, ages 81-86 .....	\$2
Driver's License, ages 87 and older .....	Free
Temporary Visitor Driver's License.....	\$30
New Classification added; not at time of renewal (except CDL).....	\$5
School Bus Permit.....	\$4

*Note: In addition to the regular driver's license fee, an applicant will pay an additional \$5 fee to add/renew an M or L motorcycle classification.*

#### **State ID Card**

State ID Card, under age 18 .....	\$5
State ID Card, ages 18-64.....	\$20
State ID Card, ages 65 and older; Persons with Disabilities .....	Free

#### **Duplicate/Corrected Driver's License/Permit**

Duplicate/Corrected Driver's License/Permit .....	\$5
Duplicate/Corrected Driver's License/Permit ages 81-86 .....	\$2
Duplicate/Corrected Driver's License/Permit ages 87 and older .....	Free

Duplicate/Corrected Temporary (90-day) Driver's License .....	\$5
Duplicate/Corrected Temporary Visitor Driver's License .....	\$5
Duplicate Driver's License/Permit, under age 60 (license was stolen, full police report required) .....	Free
Duplicate Driver's License/Permit, ages 60 and older (license was lost/stolen).....	Free

**Duplicate/Corrected State ID Card**

Duplicate Temporary (90-day) State ID Card .....	\$5
Duplicate State ID Card, under age 18 .....	\$5
Duplicate State ID Card, ages 18-64 .....	\$20
Duplicate State ID Card, (ID card was stolen, full police report required).....	Free
Duplicate State ID Card, ages 60 and older (ID card was lost/stolen) .....	Free
Corrected Temporary (90-day) State ID Card .....	\$5
Corrected State ID Card, under age 18.....	\$5
Corrected State ID Card, ages 18-64.....	\$10
Corrected State ID Card, ages 65 and older.....	Free

**Active Members of the Armed Services (also spouses/children residing at home)**

Duplicate License/Permit/State ID Card .....	Free
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Fees are subject to legislative change. For up-to-date fee information, visit [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com). CDL fees are available in the *Commercial Driver's License Study Guide*.

For more information on temporary visitor driver's license fees, please refer to the *Temporary Visitor Driver's License Quick Guide* available at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com).

## Chapter 2: Driver's License Exams

When applying for a driver's license, individuals may be required to complete a vision screening, as well as written and driving exams. Vision screening and a written test are required for the issuance or renewal of all permits.

Applicants are allowed three attempts to pass each of these exams within one year from the date the application fee is paid.

Applicants who have a traffic crash or other moving violation on their driving record may be required to take the written and/or driving exams.

### Cheating and Bribery

During the written exam, applicants will be warned if they are observed doing something that could be considered suspicious. This could be, but is not limited to, an open book within the applicant's field of vision, looking around, or checking a cellphone or other wireless device while taking the exam. Any applicant found cheating will fail the exam and be prohibited from retaking it for 30 days. **Taking any part of the driver's license exam for another person is a criminal offense punishable by a fine and a mandatory minimum seven days in jail.**

The Secretary of State's office may deny the issuance of a driver's license and/or instruction permit to any person who attempts to influence any act related to the issuance of the document. This includes attempting to bribe or influence an employee of the Secretary of State's office, the owner of a commercial driver school, or any individual authorized to give driving instructions or administer any part of a driver's license examination.

### Vision Screening

All driver's license applicants must have a vision screening or submit a Vision Specialist Report completed by a licensed optometrist, ophthalmologist or physician dated within six months of a facility visit. This form is available at any local Driver Services facility or at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com). Vision requirements include:

- Minimum visual acuity of 20/40 with or without corrective lenses. A driver with acuity between 20/41 and 20/70 is limited to daylight driving only.
- At least 140 degree peripheral vision (the ability to see to the side) with or without corrective lenses.

Applicants wearing glasses or contact lenses will have a restriction noted on the license requiring they wear glasses or contact lenses when operating a vehicle. Applicants wearing telescopic lenses must meet special requirements and undergo additional vision testing to receive a license.

## Written Exam

Every driver must take a written exam every eight years, except a driver having no traffic convictions. The basic written exam requires driver's license applicants to:

- Identify traffic signs by shape, color or symbol.
- Identify signals and pavement markings.
- Answer multiple-choice and true-or-false questions about traffic laws, safety rules, crash prevention and vehicle equipment.

The exam requirements for motorcycles, trucks and buses vary. Applicants should consult the appropriate operator's manual for these types of vehicles.

## Driving Exam

New drivers are required to take a driving exam. Drivers ages 75 and older and any driver turning 75 or older who are renewing their driver's license must take a driving exam.

If the applicant is age 21 or older and driving for the first time, enrollment in driving school for adults is suggested prior to applying for a driver's license.

To take a driving exam, the vehicle used must:

- Be properly licensed and have the required equipment listed on page 91.
- Be in the same weight class as sought on their driver's license application.
- Be properly insured. Proof of insurance must be provided at the time of the exam.
- Display valid front and rear Illinois license plates and a valid registration sticker. If the vehicle is registered outside of Illinois, it must meet the registration requirements of the respective state.
- Be driven to the facility by a driver with a valid driver's license/permit.

Only the examiner is allowed to be with the applicant during the driving exam. Children or pets are not allowed in the vehicle during the exam and cannot be left unattended in the facility while the driving exam is underway. If applicants bring children or pets, they must bring someone to take care of them.

During the driving exam, the driver and the examiner must wear safety belts, as required by law. Applicants will automatically fail the exam if they commit any traffic violation or any dangerous action while taking the exam.

Applicants are graded on their ability to perform several driving tasks and maneuvers, including the following:

- Checking the vehicle controls, including the parking brake and mirrors. The applicant must make all adjustments to seats, safety belts, mirrors and other equipment before the vehicle is put into motion.

- Backing the vehicle approximately 50 feet at a slow speed, straight and smoothly. Applicants should turn their head to the right and watch to the rear when performing this maneuver.
- Performing a turnabout using an alley on the left side of the street. Applicants should turn their left signal on before turning into the alley, back the car out of the alley and stay on their side of the street.
- Parking uphill on the side of the road. (See page 34.)
- Starting uphill from a parked position. (See page 34.)
- Parking downhill on the side of the road. (See page 34.)
- Starting downhill from a parked position. (See page 34.)
- Controlling the vehicle by obeying all traffic signs, controls devices, rights of way, lane markings and properly using turn signals.

## **Special Services**

The Secretary of State's office provides the following special services for senior citizens, persons with disabilities and veterans:

- Free Rules of the Road Review Courses.
- License plates and parking placards for persons with disabilities.
- Reduced-fee license plate renewal fees for seniors age 65 and older and persons with disabilities who meet income criteria through the Benefit Access Program (formerly known as the Circuit Breaker Program). For more information, individuals should contact the Illinois Department on Aging.
- Interpreter service for the deaf or hard of hearing when obtaining or renewing a driver's license. Applicants needing interpreter service should make the request in advance of their visit to the facility by calling 312-814-5683 or 888-261-5238 (TTY, NexTalk).
- Oral examinations (for the written test) can be requested in person at any Secretary of State driver's license facility, Monday through Thursday. The services are provided for applicants who may have a language barrier or any type of reading or learning disability.

## Chapter 3: Drivers Under Age 21

In Illinois, most people under age 18 learn to drive in high school or at a commercial driver training school licensed by the Secretary of State's office. Approved driver education classes include at least 30 hours of classroom study and six hours of behind-the-wheel training in a regular passenger vehicle.

### Obtaining an Instruction Permit

Driver's license applicants who are age 15-17 may receive an instruction permit with acceptable proof from the authorized driver education provider. The document must state they are enrolled in an approved driver education class and/or will start attending an approved driver education class within the next 30 days. The instruction permit is valid for 24 months and must be held for at least nine consecutive months prior to obtaining a driver's license if the applicant is age 15-17. If applicants are age 17 and 3 months or older, they may apply for an instruction permit without taking a driver education course. When applying for an instruction permit, applicants must pass the vision and written exams for the license classification they are seeking. The test results are valid until the expiration of the permit.

An instruction permit allows an individual to drive during the behind-the-wheel portion of a driver education class with an adult instructor. It also allows a person to drive with a parent, legal guardian or responsible adult who is age 21 or older, has a valid license and has at least one year of driving experience. This individual must sit in the front passenger seat adjacent to the driver. After individuals have successfully completed the driver education class, they may continue practice driving with an instruction permit, under the direct supervision of a responsible adult as outlined above.

Illinois law requires drivers under age 16 to have at least 50 hours of behind-the-wheel supervised driving, including 10 hours of nighttime supervised driving, in addition to the driver education training, before being eligible to obtain a driver's license at age 16. A driving log to track the supervised practice hours is available at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com) or in the *Parent-Teen Driving Guide*.

### Applying for an Illinois Driver's License

Driver's licenses for persons under age 21 are printed vertically with distinct features. To apply for a driver's license before age 18, applicants must bring the following documents to the Driver Services facility:

- Instruction permit;
- Acceptable forms of identification (see page 104);
- Affidavit/Consent For Minor To Drive (if applicable);
- Cooperative Driver Testing Certificate (if applicable); and
- 50-hour driving log with proper signature.

If the minor applicant is applying for a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, he/she must also bring all the required identity documents. See page 6 for section on First-Time REAL ID-Compliant Applicants.

The Secretary of State must have received notification of the applicant's successful completion of driver education, and the notation must appear on the driving record before a driver's license is issued. Students whose birthdays fall on certain dates are required to pass a driving exam administered at a Driver Services facility even though they may have taken and passed a road test conducted by their driver education instructor. Applicants who receive their driver's license prior to the expiration of the instruction permit may not be required to pay an additional fee when applying for the driver's license.

## **Driver Education and the Cooperative Driver Testing Program**

High school students who successfully complete an accredited driver education course of classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction with a combined grade of A or B may be exempt from taking a Secretary of State administered driving exam when applying for a driver's license. School districts are encouraged to participate in this voluntary program by contacting the Secretary of State's office. More information on the requirements for this program is available at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com).

Upon successful completion of the classroom and behind-the-wheel portions of driver education through a local high school, the Secretary of State's office will receive notification and add a notation to the individual's driver's license record. After successful completion of a driving exam, the prospective driver may be issued a Cooperative Driver Testing Certificate, which must be signed by the driver education instructor and the student's parent/legal guardian. The certificate expires on the same day as the student's instruction permit and will not be extended. It must be presented at the Driver Services facility when applying for the driver's license.

Students under age 18 who drop out of high school cannot have the notation indicating completion placed on their driver's license record unless:

- The instructor has written verification of enrollment in a GED or alternative program;
- The applicant has a GED;
- Prior to dropping out, they received passing grades in at least eight courses in the previous two semesters; or
- They have written consent from their parents or legal guardian and the regional superintendent.

The local superintendent or chief school administrator may waive conditions deemed in the best interest of the student or dropout. Successful completion of driver education may be verified by contacting the Illinois State Board of Education at 217-782-4321.

## **First-Time Drivers — Age 18-20**

Illinois driver's license applicants who are age 18, 19 or 20 and have not previously been licensed or completed an approved driver education program must complete a six-hour Adult Driver Education Course. The Adult Driver Education Course can only be taught by providers certified by the Secretary of State's office. Courses may be taught in a classroom setting or online, depending on the certification of a provider. Completion of an Adult Driver Education Course from a provider not certified by the Secretary of State's office will not be accepted. More information on the Adult Driver Education Course is available at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com).

## **Graduated Driver Licensing Program**

Illinois' Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) Program requires drivers ages 15-20 to work their way toward full-driving privileges. There are three progressive stages, usually beginning at age 15, when most young drivers obtain their learner's permit. Young drivers must earn the right to move from one phase to the next, based on their driving behavior. Each phase of the GDL process sets forth specific guidelines for a teen driver.

### **Permit Phase — Drivers Age 15**

- Nighttime driving restrictions — Sun.-Thurs., 10 p.m.-6 a.m.; Fri.-Sat., 11 p.m.-6 a.m. (local curfews may differ).
- Permit must be held for a minimum of nine months.
- Must practice driving a minimum of 50 hours, including 10 hours at night, supervised by a parent or adult age 21 or older with a valid driver's license.
- Must not acquire any driving infractions, underage alcohol convictions or court supervisions during the nine-month permit phase.
- Number of passengers is limited to one in the front seat and the number of safety belts in the back seat.
- Any wireless/cellphone use while driving, including a hands-free device, is prohibited for a driver under age 19, except in the case of an emergency to contact a law enforcement agency, health care provider or emergency services agency.
- Permit is valid for up to two years.

### **Initial Licensing Phase — Drivers Ages 16-17**

- Nighttime driving restrictions — Sun.-Thurs., 10 p.m.-6 a.m.; Fri.-Sat., 11 p.m.-6 a.m. (local curfews may differ).
- Must maintain a conviction-free driving record for six months prior to turning 18. A traffic conviction during the Initial Licensing Phase may extend restrictions beyond age 18.
- For the first 12 months of licensing, or until the driver turns 18, whichever occurs first, the number of passengers is limited to one person under age 20, unless the passenger(s) is a sibling, stepsibling, child or stepchild of the driver. After this period, the number of passengers is limited to one in the front seat and the number of safety belts in the back seat.
- Any wireless/cellphone use while driving, including a hands-free device, is prohibited for a driver under age 19, except in the case of an emergency to contact a law enforcement agency, health care provider or emergency services agency.



## Full Licensing Phase — Drivers Ages 18-20

- No age-related restrictions apply except in cases where a driver fails to move from the Initial Licensing Phase to the Full Licensing Phase.
- Any wireless/cellphone use while driving, including a hands-free device, is prohibited for a driver under age 19, except in the case of an emergency to contact a law enforcement agency, health care provider or emergency services agency.

For more information about the GDL program, please refer to the *Illinois Graduated Driver Licensing Program* brochure at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com). Brochures are available at any local Driver Services facility, high school driver education program or a commercial driving school program.

## Parental Responsibility

- **Parental Consent** — A driver age 16-17 must have the written consent of a parent/legal guardian to obtain a driver's license. The parent/legal guardian who gave initial consent may cancel the minor's license at any time, for any reason, until the driver turns 18 by contacting the Secretary of State's office. Driving privileges will not be reinstated until the parent/legal guardian who withdrew consent, once again, provides consent or until the driver turns 18, whichever occurs first. The teen driver must reapply for a driver's license, take all applicable exams and pay the appropriate fees.
- **Parental Access to Teen's Driving Record** — The parent/legal guardian of a person under age 18 who holds an instruction permit or graduated driver's license may access their minor's driving record at no cost by visiting [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com) and using a personal identification number (PIN) provided by the Secretary of State's office.
- **Instruction Permit Completion Check** — Students who are under age 21 and who hold a valid instruction permit, as well as their parent/legal guardian, may go to the Secretary of State's website using the Instruction Permit number to determine if their high school driver's education completion/certification has been added to their driving record.
- **Parent-Teen Driving Guide** — A *Parent-Teen Driving Guide* is available to assist parents in teaching their teen driver the skills he/she needs to know before starting to drive on his/her own. The guide is available at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com).
- **Parent-Teen Driving Contract** — The Secretary of State's office provides a voluntary Parent-Teen Driving Contract that establishes parameters and boundaries between parents and a teenager to enable a young driver to acquire safe driving habits and skills. The contract is available in the *Parent-Teen Driving Guide* or at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com).

## Related Laws

- **Court Supervision for Moving Violations** — A driver under age 21 is limited to one court supervision for serious traffic offenses. To obtain court supervision for a traffic violation, a driver must attend traffic safety school. If he/she is under age 18, he/she must appear in court with a parent/legal guardian. If receiving court supervision for certain alcohol-related violations, a driver under age 18 will be denied a full graduated driver's license for nine months.

- **Loss of Driving Privileges for Moving Violations** — A driver under age 21 who is convicted of two or more moving violations within a 24-month period will have his/her driver's license suspended for a minimum of 30 days. The length of the suspension varies according to the seriousness of the traffic offenses. A driver may be required to complete a Driver Remedial Education Course as part of reinstatement of driving privileges. This information will be indicated on the suspension notice. A suspended driver may be, but is not always, eligible for a Restricted Driving Permit during the suspension period.
- **Driver's License Suspension for Alcohol Consumption** — A person under age 21 who receives court supervision for possession, consumption, purchase or receipt of alcohol will receive a three-month driver's license suspension. A conviction will result in a minimum six-month suspension of driving privileges.
- **Driver's License Suspension for Nighttime Driving Restriction Violation** — Persons under age 18 who violate the nighttime driving restriction during the Permit Phase or the Initial Licensing Phase listed on page 18 may have their driving privileges suspended.
- **Crash Involving Bodily Harm or Death** — Persons under age 18 who are charged with an offense due to a crash where a passenger was seriously injured or killed may be denied issuance/renewal of their driver's license. Alcohol need not play a factor in the crash.
- **Non-Adjudicated Traffic Citation** — Persons under age 18 who have been issued a traffic citation that has not been fully adjudicated by the courts may be denied issuance of their driver's license.

### — Chapter 3 Study Questions —

1. During the Initial Licensing Phase, a teen driver is allowed only two passengers under age 20 in the vehicle during the first 12 months of licensing.  
 True     False
2. In order to obtain court supervision for a traffic violation, a minor must appear in court with a parent/legal guardian and attend a traffic safety school.  
 True     False
3. A parent or legal guardian may request that the driver's license of a minor be canceled at any time prior to age 18.  
 True     False
4. Illinois drivers under age 16 are required to have at least 50 hours of behind-the-wheel supervised driving before obtaining their driver's license.  
 True     False
5. Drivers under age 20 are prohibited from using their cellphone while driving except in the case of an emergency.  
 True     False
6. Drivers under age 18 must hold their instruction permit for nine consecutive months prior to obtaining their driver's license.  
 True     False

## Chapter 4: Traffic Laws

Traffic laws protect all who share Illinois' streets and highways. It is important for a driver to obey the orders of police officers, firefighters, highway authority officials or uniformed adult school crossing guards who are directing traffic or performing their official duties.

### Proper Action When Stopped by Law Enforcement

For the safety of vehicle operators and law enforcement officers, drivers stopped by police should adhere to the following suggestions:

- Slow down and safely pull over on to the right-hand shoulder of the roadway. If there is no shoulder or it is too narrow to pull over, the driver should find the next safest location and pull over.
- Do not slam on the brakes or stop in the lane of traffic. Drivers should not stop their vehicle on bridges, curves, next to guardrails, concrete walls, medians or any place where it would be difficult for other vehicles to pass. A vehicle should not be stopped too close to the solid white line, as it may get struck by oncoming traffic.
- Stay in the vehicle with both hands clearly in sight on the steering wheel. Drivers should keep their hands on the steering wheel until the police officer instructs them otherwise or the traffic stop is complete.
- Be prepared for the officer to approach from either the driver or passenger side of the vehicle.
- Do not exit the vehicle unless asked to do so. Getting out of the vehicle can be perceived as aggressive behavior and a threat to the police officer's safety.
- Comply with the officer's request to see a driver's license and proof of insurance. If these items are in the glove box or under the seat or if the proof of insurance is stored for display on a cellphone, the driver should inform the police officer of that fact and then follow the officer's directions before retrieving the information. Vehicle operators are required to have a valid driver's license, registration and insurance in order to operate a vehicle.
- If a driver cannot identify an unmarked police vehicle and/or the driver as law enforcement, he/she should drive slowly and carefully below the speed limit and either (1) pull over at a well-lit, populated location, (2) drive carefully to the nearest police station and attempt to attract the attention of a uniformed officer or (3) call 9-1-1. A driver should activate the vehicle's hazard lights as a helpful way to communicate intentions with the police officer.
- If a driver is being stopped at night, it is acceptable to turn on the interior light of the vehicle.

A traffic stop could indicate the driver has committed a minor traffic violation without realizing it. There also may be a problem with the vehicle of which the driver is unaware or the vehicle may be similar to one used in a serious crime. Many officers will not provide the driver with specific reasons for the stop until they have obtained the driver's license, vehicle registration and insurance card from the driver.

If the traffic stop results in a ticket or arrest for the driver, he/she:

- Should not debate the reason for the stop or argue with the police officer.
- Should not refuse to sign a ticket if issued. A traffic ticket requires the driver's signature. Signing a ticket is not an admission of the driver's guilt — only an acknowledgment of receiving the ticket.
- Should not be uncooperative with law enforcement at the scene. If a driver is suspected of drunk driving, refusal to submit to breath, urine, blood or performance tests can result in the loss of driving privileges.
- Should not argue about the ticket at the time of issuance. If a driver believes an offense was not committed or the ticket was issued unfairly, he/she will have the opportunity to present the case in traffic court.
- Should not resist arrest if taken into custody by the police.

A driver is to be treated with dignity and respect by law enforcement officers. If a driver believes that an officer has acted inappropriately during a traffic stop or other encounter, he/she should report the conduct as soon as possible to the officer's superiors. Officers are required to provide their names and badge numbers upon request. Written complaints can be filed with the agency's internal affairs division or civilian complaint board.

Regardless of what action is taken, police officers are legally required to document all traffic stops, which includes obtaining the driver's name and address for data collection purposes.

## Distracted Driving

Illinois law prohibits the use of handheld cellphones, texting or using other electronic communications while operating a motor vehicle. Hands-free devices or Bluetooth technology is allowed for persons age 19 and older.

Illinois law prohibits the use of headsets while driving. Headsets are defined as any device, other than a hearing aid, that allows a person to hear or receive electronic communications. The use of a single-sided headset or earpiece with a wireless/cellphone device is permitted while driving. Motorcycle, motor-driven cycle and moped operators may use intercom helmets which permit a driver and/or passengers to speak to one another.

Using hands-free technology such as a headset or voice activated controls is considered a distraction while driving and can be dangerous. If a driver must make a phone call, even with hands-free technology, it is recommended the driver pull off to the side of the road before making the call.

**Using a cellphone while holding the device and utilizing the speaker phone is not considered hands free and is a violation of Illinois law. Watching or streaming a live video on a cellphone is also a violation of Illinois law.**

The only time an Illinois driver can use a cellphone that is not hands free is:

- To report an emergency situation.
- While parked on the shoulder of a roadway.
- While stopped due to normal traffic being obstructed and the vehicle is in neutral or park.

**A driver who is in a crash with a motor vehicle, bicyclist, pedestrian or any road user caused by distracted driving may face criminal penalties and incarceration.**

## **Safety Belt Law**

Illinois law requires all drivers and passengers (front and back seat) age 8 and older to wear safety belts even if the vehicle is equipped with air bags. Passengers under age 8 must be secured in an appropriate child restraint system as covered by the Child Passenger Protection Act.

If a passenger has a disability or medical condition that makes him/her unable to secure his/her own safety belt, the driver is responsible for securing and adjusting the safety belt for that passenger.

It is the responsibility of the driver to ensure ALL passengers obey the safety belt law and the Child Passenger Protection Act.

### **Safety Belt Fitting**

The lap belt should be worn across the hip bones and should never be positioned across the stomach or soft part of the abdomen. The shoulder strap should be as snug as possible but still allow the driver to reach important controls. Occupants should adjust the shoulder strap so it is comfortable and does not cross the body at or near the neck or face. The shoulder strap of the seat belt should never be placed behind the back or under the arm.

### **Air Bag Safety**

Air bags are designed to provide supplemental protection in combination with safety belts. Air bags are lifesaving devices, but special precautions should be taken when driving in air bag-equipped vehicles.

A distance of 10-12 inches between the driver and the air bag is desirable, especially for short, elderly or pregnant drivers. Passengers should position their seats as far back as possible, tilting the seat back slightly if necessary.

Children riding in the front seat can be seriously injured or killed when an air bag deploys in a crash. It is recommended that children ages 12 and younger be properly secured in the back seat. If children under age 8 must ride in the front passenger seat with an active air bag, they should be in a properly installed, appropriate child safety seat with the seat as far back as possible. Rear-facing child safety seats should never be installed in front of an active air bag. Some vehicles, such as pick-up trucks, have the option to turn off the passenger side front air bag.

## **Child Passenger Protection Act**

The Child Passenger Protection Act requires all children under age 8 be properly secured in an appropriate child safety restraint system. This includes the use of booster seats, which must only be used with a lap/shoulder safety belt. If the back seat of the vehicle is not

equipped with lap/shoulder type safety belts, a child weighing more than 40 pounds may be transported in the back seat without a booster seat, secured with a lap belt only.

Effective January 1, 2019, Illinois law requires children to be properly secured in a rear-facing child restraint system until age 2 unless they weigh more than 40 pounds or are more than 40 inches tall.

Drivers wanting more information on child safety seat recalls or a safety seat inspected for proper installation should visit [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov).



## Speed Limits

Speeding is one of the leading contributors to vehicle crashes, deaths and serious injuries on roadways. Individuals may drive at the maximum allowable speed only under safe conditions. For safety purposes, a minimum speed limit may be posted along certain roadways. When minimum limits are not posted, a driver should not drive so slow as to create an interference with the normal movement of traffic. The following speed limits apply, unless otherwise posted:

- Interstates and tollways — 70 mph.
- Highways with four lanes — 65 mph.
- Other highways and rural areas — 55 mph.
- City/town areas — 30 mph.
- Alleys — 15 mph.
- School zones — 20 mph (on school days between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. when children are present and signs are posted).

Local municipalities have the discretion to post speed limits different from those listed.

A driver must take care to slow down when approaching and crossing an intersection, going around a curve, approaching the top of a hill, or traveling on a narrow and winding roadway. A driver must be aware that there may always be dangers present due to pedestrians, bicyclists, traffic, weather, mechanical problems or road conditions.

# **Construction Zones, Emergency Vehicles, School Zones and Funeral Processions**

## **Construction Zones**

When approaching or entering a highway construction or maintenance area (also known as work zones), Illinois law requires motorists to slow down, discontinue wireless/cellphone use (unless using a hands-free device that may include the use of a single-sided headset), yield to any authorized vehicles or workers in the area, change to a lane away from the workers when possible and proceed with caution.

Motorists must obey the posted construction zone speed limit 24 hours a day, seven days a week, regardless of the presence of workers. Standard speed limits may be reduced due to the presence of workers or because normal driving conditions do not exist in a construction zone. There may be narrow lanes, drop-offs between lanes or at the edge of the pavement, lane closures, construction equipment or obstructions near open lanes of traffic. The speed limit may be further reduced when workers are present.

## **Emergency/Maintenance Vehicles**

When approaching a stationary (non-moving) emergency/maintenance vehicle using visual signals, Illinois law requires motorists to yield, change to a lane away from the emergency workers when possible and proceed with caution. If a lane change is not possible, a driver should reduce speed and proceed with caution. Illinois law prohibits photography and the use of wireless/cellphones within 500 feet of an emergency scene, except in certain circumstances.

When being approached by an emergency vehicle using audible and visual signals (lights and/or sirens), Illinois law requires motorists to immediately pull to the right side of the road and allow the emergency vehicle to pass. In some cases a complete stop may be necessary to allow the emergency vehicle to pass. If stopped at an intersection with two-way traffic, remain stopped until the emergency vehicle passes through the intersection.

A driver is prohibited from driving over fire hoses, unless permitted by a fire official in command of the scene.

## **School Zones**

When approaching a marked school zone between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m., on days when school is in operation and children are present, a driver must discontinue wireless/cellphone use (unless using a hands-free device that may include the use of a single-sided headset), reduce speed to 20 mph, and stop and yield the right of way to any children or adults in the crosswalk area.

## **Funeral Processions**

Motorists encountering a funeral procession must yield the right of way to all vehicles in the procession. Motorists in a funeral procession should have their headlights and hazard lights turned on. Motorists should NOT drive between vehicles in an organized funeral

procession, except when directed to do so by a law enforcement officer. Vehicles are prohibited from joining a funeral procession for the purpose of securing the right of way or attempting to pass any vehicle in an organized funeral procession, except where a passing lane has been specifically provided. Local municipalities may impound a vehicle that interferes with a funeral procession due to reckless driving.

## **Right of Way**

A driver must yield the right of way to other drivers, bicyclists or pedestrians:

- When making a right turn on a red light after a complete stop.
- After coming to a complete stop at an intersection where there is a stop sign or flashing red signal. If there is no stop line, stop before the crosswalk. If there is no crosswalk or stop line, stop at a place where all approaching traffic can be seen.
- When making a left turn on a red light after a stop from a one-way street to another one-way street with traffic moving to the left. (See Figure A on page 27.)
- When more than one driver reaches a four-way stop intersection. The first driver to stop should be the first to go. When two vehicles on different roadways arrive at a four-way stop intersection at the same time, the vehicle on the left should yield to the vehicle on the right. (See Figure B on page 27.)
- When entering an intersection with a flashing yellow arrow.
- When two vehicles on different roadways reach an uncontrolled intersection at the same time. The vehicle on the left should yield to the vehicle on the right.
- When making a left-hand turn into oncoming traffic. If drivers enter an intersection while the light is green, they may finish the turn even though the light turns red.
- When approaching a MERGE sign with through traffic. A driver must increase or decrease speed to avoid a crash.
- When approaching a YIELD sign. A driver should slow down or stop to avoid a crash.
- Even after the light turns green when there are vehicles in the intersection.
- When emerging from an alley, building, private road or driveway after coming to a complete stop. (See Figure C on page 27.)
- To cross traffic when on the terminating highway of a "T" intersection with no traffic control signs or signals. (See Figure D on page 27.)
- When approaching emergency vehicles using audible and visual signals.

A driver may not:

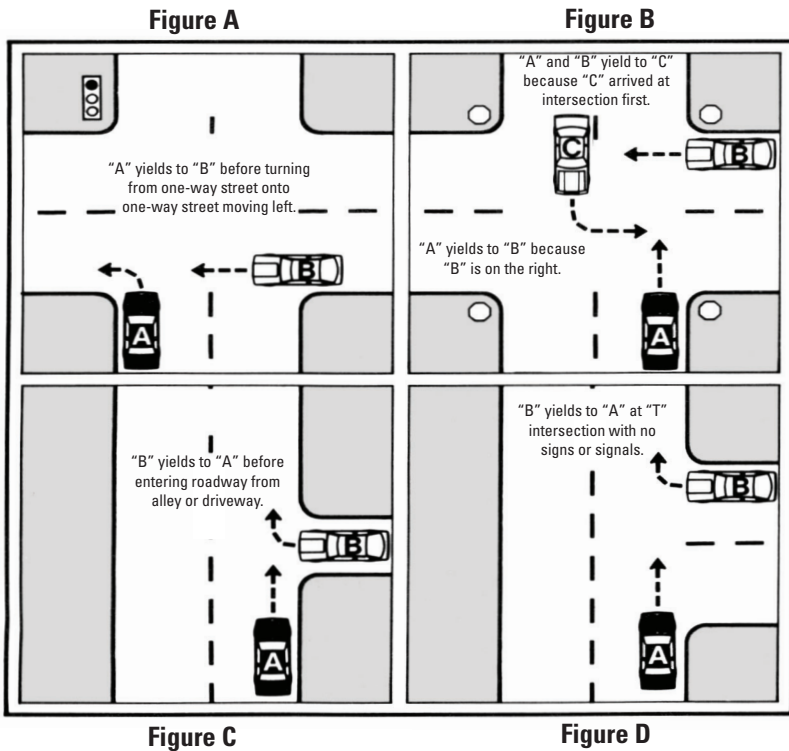
- Enter an intersection or drive within a marked crosswalk unless there is enough space to allow passage of other vehicles and/or pedestrians.
- Drive onto a railroad crossing.

## **Pedestrian Right of Way**

A driver must come to a complete stop (and yield):

- When a pedestrian is in a marked crosswalk.
- On school days, when children are in close proximity to a school zone crosswalk.





A driver must yield:

- When a pedestrian is in an unmarked crosswalk on the driver's side of the roadway and there are no traffic control signals.
- When making a turn at any intersection.
- When making a lawful turn on a red light after coming to a complete stop.
- After coming to a complete stop at a stop sign or flashing red signal at an intersection.
- When a pedestrian enters a crosswalk before the traffic light changes.
- When a pedestrian is walking with a green light, to a walking person symbol or to a walk signal.
- When a pedestrian is leaving or entering a street or highway from an alley, building, private road or driveway.
- When a pedestrian is entering an intersection with a flashing yellow arrow.
- To a person with disabilities, including physical, hearing and visual disabilities.

## Passing

Drivers must use caution when passing another vehicle. On a two-lane highway, the left lane should be clearly visible and free of oncoming traffic for a distance great enough to permit passing. Drivers should not turn back into the right-hand lane until the entire vehicle they have just passed is visible in the rearview mirror. Drivers must return to their lane

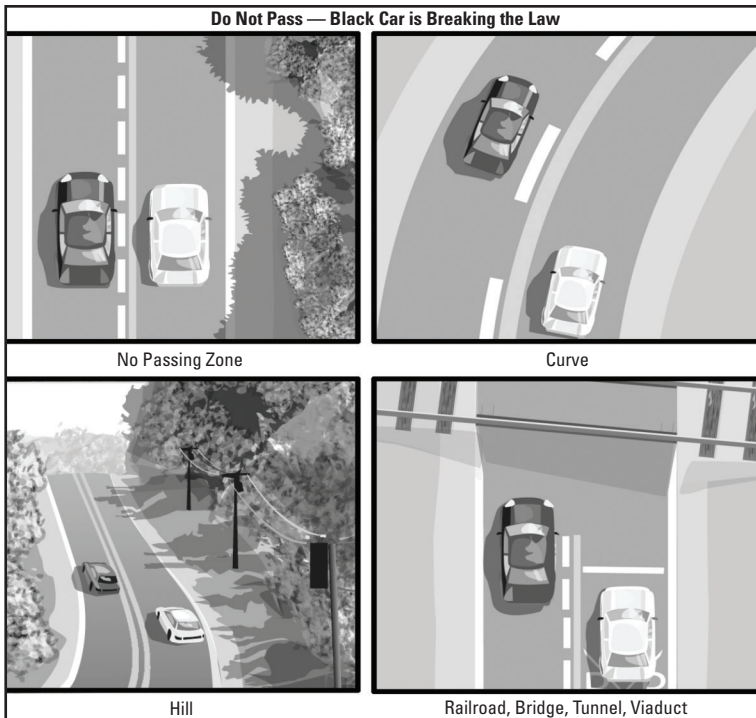
before getting within 200 feet of an oncoming vehicle. The driver of the vehicle being passed must not increase speed until the passing vehicle has completed its maneuver.

It is against the law to flash turn signals as a courtesy or “do pass” signal to other drivers.

Driving off the pavement or main traveled part of the road is not allowed when passing another vehicle on the right or the left. When passing a pedestrian who is walking on the road or shoulder of the roadway, a driver must keep a minimum of 3 feet between the vehicle and the pedestrian. When passing a bicyclist on any road, including a bicyclist on the road shoulder or in a dedicated bicycle lane, a driver must keep a minimum distance of 3 feet from the bicyclist.

Drivers may pass on the right (but not on the shoulder except for authorized vehicles):

- When they have enough room on a two-lane roadway, and when the vehicle being passed is making or is about to make a left turn.
- On a one-way street or on a roadway with two or more clear lanes in each direction.
- At an intersection widened for this purpose.



Passing on a two-lane, two-way roadway is not allowed:

- In an area marked for no passing by a solid yellow line or with a DO NOT PASS or NO PASSING ZONE sign.
- On a hill or curve where it is not possible to see oncoming vehicles.

- Within 100 feet of an intersection or railroad crossing.
- When the view is blocked within 100 feet of any bridge, viaduct or tunnel.
- When a vehicle has stopped at a crosswalk or intersection to allow a pedestrian to cross.
- In a construction zone. All construction zones in Illinois are no passing zones.
- In any school zone located in an unincorporated area.
- In any posted school zone in an incorporated area.
- When a school bus has stopped to load or discharge passengers.

## **Lane Usage**

Drivers must drive on the right half of the roadway except:

- When passing another vehicle moving in the same direction on a two-lane highway, interstate highway or controlled freeway.
- When a blockage makes it necessary to drive to the left of the center line. Drivers may drive on the left after yielding to oncoming traffic.
- On a roadway divided into three marked lanes for traffic.
- On a one-way street with two or more lanes of traffic.
- When directed to drive in a left lane by traffic control signs and signals on a multilane, two-way highway.
- When crossing the center line to make a left turn into or from an alley, private road or driveway.
- When approaching a stationary emergency vehicle.
- When roadway construction is located in or in close proximity to the right lane or right shoulder.

When driving on an interstate highway or full access controlled freeway, a driver may not drive in the left lane(s), except when passing another vehicle. Exceptions include when:

- No other vehicle is directly behind the vehicle being driven in the left lane.
- Traffic conditions/congestion make it impractical to drive in the right lane.
- Weather conditions make it necessary to use the left lane(s).
- There is an obstruction or hazard in the right lane.
- The driver is changing lanes to yield to emergency or construction vehicles.

Additional rules apply in certain situations:

- Slow vehicles must use the right-hand lane except when passing or making a left turn.
- Weaving from lane to lane to move faster than the traffic flow is unlawful.
- Traffic must travel in the direction of posted one-way streets or roadways. This rule does not apply to police and emergency vehicles using sirens or flashing lights.
- It is unlawful to drive across median strips such as unpaved strips or median barriers. A driver may turn left across a paved dividing-space unless it is not permitted by a traffic control sign or signal.
- A driver must not enter or leave any controlled-access roadway except at a posted entrance or exit.
- A driver may not back up on any shoulder or roadway of any controlled access roadway.
- A driver may not back up on other roadways unless it is done safely and does not interfere with other vehicles.

- A driver or passenger may not open doors on the side of a vehicle on which traffic is moving unless it can be done safely and without interfering with vehicle or bicycle traffic. The door may remain open only long enough to load or unload passengers. Drivers should consider using their right hand to open the vehicle door as this gives them the opportunity to turn and check for oncoming vehicles and bicyclists. This is more commonly known as the Dutch Reach. A graphic of this movement can be found on page 43.

## Signaling

In a business or residential area, a driver must give a continuous turn signal for at least 100 feet before turning. In other areas, the signal must be given at least 200 feet before turning.

A driver may signal in two ways:

- **Electrical turn signals** — A driver should apply the right-turn signal for a right turn and the left-turn signal for a left turn.
- **Hand and arm signals** — A driver should give the signal using the left arm. For a right turn, the hand and arm are extended straight up. For a left turn, the hand and arm are extended straight out to the left. To slow down or stop, the hand and arm are extended down.



Right Turn

Left Turn

Slow or Stop

## Turning

### Right Turns

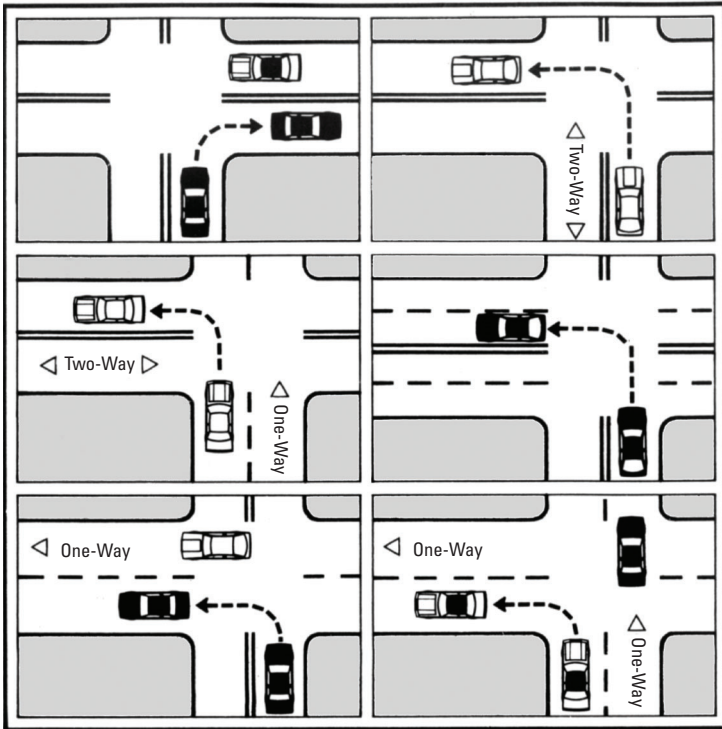
When making a right turn, a driver should:

- Give a right-turn signal from the proper turning lane.
- Obey traffic signs and signals.
- Yield the right of way to pedestrians, emergency vehicles and other vehicles in the intersection.
- Check traffic approaching from the left.
- Follow the general curve of the curb while making the right turn. The driver should stay as close as possible to the curb.
- Turn into the right-hand lane of the roadway the driver is entering.
- Be aware that trucks and buses may need more space to make a right-hand turn.
- Be aware of any bike lanes and check for bicyclists approaching the intersection.

## Left Turns

When making a left turn, a driver should:

- Give a left-turn signal from the proper turning lane.
- Obey traffic signs and signals.
- Yield the right of way to pedestrians, emergency vehicles and other vehicles in the intersection.
- Check all approaching traffic.
- Point the wheels straight ahead until starting to make the turn.
- Complete the turn into the lane closest to the intended direction.



## Changing Lanes

When moving a vehicle from the right-hand lane to the left-hand lane, drivers should check for traffic behind the vehicle and to the left by turning their head and visually assessing the area. If the area is clear, the driver should give the left-turn signal and carefully move into the left lane.

When moving a vehicle from the left-hand lane to the right-hand lane, drivers should check for traffic behind the vehicle and to the right by turning their head and visually assessing the area. If the area is clear, the driver should give the right-turn signal and carefully move into the right lane.

## **U-Turns**

Drivers must not turn around on curves and hills unless they can see for at least 500 feet in all directions. Municipalities may prohibit U-turns on some roadways.

## **Hazard Signal**

Both turn signals may be flashed at the same time by a driver to indicate a disabled or parked vehicle.

## **Two-Way Left Turn Lane**

The two-way left turn lane provides a safe area for cars making left turns at intersections or for cars turning left into or out of a drive located in the middle of the block.

## **Turns and Lane Changes in Construction Zones**

A driver should pay special attention to signs, barricades and pavement markings when turning or changing lanes.

## **Rotaries and Roundabouts**

A rotary or roundabout is an intersection where traffic travels around a central island in a circular, counter-clockwise direction. Roundabouts may have more than one lane of traffic. Vehicles entering or exiting a roundabout must yield to all traffic including pedestrians and bicycles. When drivers approach a roundabout, they should slow down and:

- Look for signs and any pavement markings prohibiting certain movements.
- Enter the roundabout by turning right when safe to do so.
- Stay in their lane.
- Use their vehicle's right turn signal to let other drivers know they are exiting the roundabout.

Some tips for safely maneuvering in a rotary or roundabout include:

- A driver should look for street and direction signs when approaching and before entering a roundabout. This will help determine which exit to take. These signs should be posted along the roadside before reaching the roundabout.
- Drivers should not change lanes or take an exit before checking for vehicles that may be continuing through the roundabout. A driver should expect vehicles to be in blind spots where they cannot be seen in rearview or side mirrors.

## **Special Stops**

### **School Buses**

The only time a vehicle is not required to stop for a school bus is when both vehicles are on a four-lane roadway and the bus is stopped in the opposite direction from which a driver is traveling.

Any other time, a driver must stop before meeting or overtaking (passing) a school bus that is stopped and loading or unloading passengers. This includes:

- Any two-lane roadway, in rural areas and within city limits.
- Any roadway, highway or private road.
- Any parking lot located on school property.

A warning will be given by the school bus at least 100 feet (200 feet in rural areas) in advance of a stop. The bus driver will flash lights on the front and rear of the bus. The school bus stop signal arm will be extended after the school bus has come to a complete stop. A driver approaching a school bus from the opposite direction must come to a complete stop and remain stopped until the stop signal arm is no longer extended and the flashing lights are turned off or the school bus driver signals vehicles to pass.



A conviction for passing a stopped school bus with flashing lights and the stop arm extended will result in the suspension of an individual's driver's license. If the owner(s) of the vehicle were not driving when the offense occurred, they must provide the State's Attorney's Office with the name of the person driving the vehicle or their vehicle registration will be suspended for three months.

### **Railroad Crossing**

A driver must yield the right of way to any approaching train or railroad equipment.

When approaching a railroad crossing, a driver must stop within 15-50 feet if there is a posted stop sign, if the electric signal is flashing or if the crossing gate is lowered. A driver also must stop if a flagger issues a signal to stop or a train is approaching and/or gives a warning. A driver may proceed only after the gate is all the way up, the lights are no longer flashing or the flagger has signaled traffic to proceed. A driver should visually check all the tracks for any additional oncoming trains or railroad equipment before proceeding.

If a railroad crossing has no warning devices or only a crossbuck sign (see page 81 for an example of a crossbuck), a driver should slow down, look in both directions of the track and listen for a train or railroad equipment. If safe to do so, a driver should then proceed with caution across the railroad crossing.

Drivers may not enter a highway railroad crossing unless there is sufficient space on the other side of the crossing to accommodate their vehicle without obstructing passage of a train or other railroad equipment using the rails.

Vehicles required by law to stop at most all railroad crossings are vehicles carrying people for hire, school buses and vehicles carrying hazardous materials.

If a vehicle becomes disabled and is stuck or stalls on railroad tracks, everyone in the vehicle should get out immediately, call 9-1-1 and move away from the tracks at a 45 degree angle in the direction of the train. This action keeps everyone safe from the forward flying debris if the train strikes the vehicle. If possible, the driver or one of the passengers should call the

railroad Emergency Notification System. This number is located on the blue sign affixed to the railroad crossing post near the tracks.



The following are important laws and safety tips when approaching a railroad crossing:

- Drive as though expecting a train on any track at any time.
- Once a train has passed, always look for a second train on another track before proceeding.
- Check carefully to make sure there is enough room for a vehicle on the other side of the railroad track. If there is not enough room, a driver should not cross the tracks.
- If a vehicle has a manual transmission, shift down before reaching the tracks. To avoid stalling, do not change gears while crossing the track.
- Never race a train.
- Be prepared to stop when behind vehicles required to stop at railroad crossings.

### Alleys/Driveways

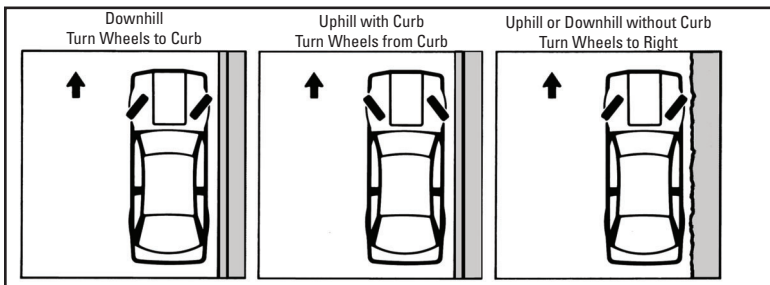
In urban areas, a driver must come to a complete stop when moving out of an alley, building, private road or driveway, and before entering the sidewalk area. If there is no sidewalk, a driver should stop at a point nearest the street or roadway where there is a view of approaching traffic. After stopping, a driver should yield the right of way to pedestrians and all vehicles. If drivers are making a turn from the alley or driveway, they should use the appropriate turn signal indicating the intended direction.

## Parking

### Hill Parking

Any time drivers park on a hill, they should put the gear select in park and set the parking/emergency brake if necessary. When starting a vehicle from an uphill or downhill location, a driver should release the parking/emergency brake, give the correct signal, check for oncoming traffic and proceed when it is safe to do so.

- If drivers park on a street with curbing and the vehicle is facing downhill, they should turn the front wheels toward the curb so the vehicle will roll toward the curb.
- If drivers park facing uphill and there is a curb, they should turn the front wheels away from the curb. (See illustration below.)
- If drivers park on a street without curbing, they should turn the wheels toward the side of the road on which the vehicle is parked. (See illustration below.)





## **Parallel Parking**

When parking on streets with two-way traffic, a driver should park so the right-hand wheels are parallel to and within 12 inches of the curb. On a one-way street or road, the vehicle should be parked within 12 inches of the right or left curb. Vehicles must be parked in the direction in which traffic is moving.

## **Parking for Persons with Disabilities**

Vehicles displaying license plates or parking placards for persons with disabilities may use spaces reserved for persons with disabilities. The authorized holder of the parking placard or license plates must be present and must enter or exit the vehicle at the time the parking privileges are being used. A striped area on the pavement next to the disabled parking space is part of the reserved space and vehicles may not use this striped area for parking even if they have a disabled parking placard or disability license plates. More information on this program is available on page 98.

## **Parking for Electric Vehicles**

Some parking areas may have spaces equipped with charging stations for electric vehicles. Only electric vehicles are allowed to park in these designated spaces.

## **Prohibited Stopping, Standing or Parking**

Stopping, standing or parking is prohibited in specified places. Local stopping, standing and parking regulations may be posted on signs. There are, however, statewide regulations that are not always indicated by signs.

Stopping, standing or parking is prohibited:

- On the roadway side of any parked vehicle (also known as double parking).
- On a sidewalk, crosswalk or within an intersection.
- Between a safety zone and the adjacent curb.
- In a marked, buffered or barrel protected bike lane.
- Beside or to the opposite of any street excavation or obstruction if the vehicle would block traffic.
- On any bridge, overpass, railroad track or within a highway tunnel.
- On any controlled access roadway — one where a vehicle may enter or exit only at certain points.
- In the area between roadways of a divided highway, including crossovers.
- On a paved roadway or highway outside business or residential districts when it is practical to stop or park off the roadway. In an emergency, drivers may stop their vehicle and park only if there is a clear view for 200 feet in each direction. The driver should turn on the emergency flashers and make sure there is enough space for other vehicles to pass.
- At any place where official signs prohibit stopping, standing or parking.

Standing or parking a vehicle, whether occupied or not, is prohibited:

- In front of a public or private driveway.
- Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant.

- Within 20 feet of a fire station driveway or crosswalk at an intersection.
- Within 30 feet of a STOP sign, YIELD sign or traffic control signal.



Parking a vehicle, whether occupied or not, is prohibited:

- Within 50 feet of the nearest rail of a railroad crossing.
- On a highway between sunset and sunrise unless the front and rear parking lights are displayed or the vehicle is within an urban district where lights are not required. Headlights on parked vehicles must be dimmed.

## Additional Laws

Motorists should familiarize themselves with local laws as they may vary between municipalities. Illinois law states a driver or individual may not:

- Cause an object to fall from an overpass or other elevated location in the direction of a moving vehicle with the intent to strike it.
- Drive on a sidewalk except when it is part of a driveway.
- Overload a vehicle with passengers or freight so that the driver's view is obstructed. There should be no more people in the front and rear seats as there are seat belts.
- Ride in a house trailer while it is being moved on a street or highway.
- Operate or permit to be operated any sound system (radio, tape player or disc player) at a volume that can be heard 75 feet or more from a vehicle being driven on a highway.

### — Chapter 4 Study Questions —

1. When passing another vehicle, a driver should wait until the entire car the driver just passed is visible in the rearview mirror before turning back into the right-hand lane.  
 True     False
2. After making a proper stop and yielding to traffic or pedestrians within the intersection, it is permissible for drivers on a one-way street to turn left at a red light onto another one-way street that moves traffic to the left.  
 True     False
3. How should a driver proceed if within an intersection waiting to make a left turn and the traffic signal light turns red?
  - a. Wait in the intersection until the light turns green.
  - b. Yield to oncoming traffic and complete the turn.
  - c. Make sure it is clear, then back up from the intersection.
4. When on a two-lane roadway, drivers must stop their vehicles when approaching a stopped school bus with its red warning lights flashing and its stop signal arm extended.  
 True     False

5. When an authorized vehicle using its sirens and flashing lights approaches a vehicle, the driver should pull to the right-hand edge of the roadway and wait for the emergency vehicle to pass.
- True     False
6. What is the penalty for being convicted of illegally passing a stopped school bus?
- A suspension of driving privileges.
  - A suspension of the vehicle registration.
  - A \$30 fine.
7. A driver may pass another vehicle by driving on the shoulder of the road.
- True     False
8. It is permissible to make a right turn against a red-signal light after stopping and yielding to other vehicles and pedestrians.
- True     False
9. A driver must give the right- or left-turn signal when changing lanes.
- True     False
10. In urban areas, drivers moving out of an alley, building, private road or driveway need not come to a complete stop before entering the roadway if the roadway is clear of traffic.
- True     False
11. For what distance should a continuous turn signal be given when making a left or right turn in a business or residential district?
- Not less than 50 feet before turning.
  - Not less than 75 feet before turning.
  - Not less than 100 feet before turning.
12. A driver may proceed immediately when waiting at an intersection and the traffic signal light turns green.
- True     False
13. What should drivers do when approaching a construction area?
- Increase their speed to get out of the way quickly.
  - Slow down, stop all wireless telephone communications and yield the right of way.
  - Honk their horn several times to alert individuals working in the area of their presence.
14. Drivers must yield to pedestrians in an unmarked crosswalk.
- True     False
15. It is legal for anyone to talk on the phone if using a hands-free device while driving, unless under age 19.
- True     False

16. Speed should be reduced below the posted speed limit for which of the following reasons?
- Driver is driving in unfavorable weather conditions.
  - Driver is approaching and crossing an intersection.
  - Both of the above.
17. Slow vehicles should use the left-hand lane except when passing or making a left turn.
- True       False
18. When must a driver slow down for a school zone?
- On school days between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. when children are present and signs are posted.
  - On weekends.
  - Only during recess.
19. Drivers may open car doors on the side on which traffic is moving only when it can be done safely and without interfering with traffic.
- True       False
20. It is permissible to pass on a two-lane, two-way roadway within 100 feet of an intersection or railroad crossing.
- True       False
21. Only vehicles displaying special plates or parking placards for persons with disabilities may park in spaces reserved for them by an official PARKING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES sign.
- True       False
22. Unless authorized to do so, drivers may not break into the line of a funeral procession.
- True       False
23. After being pulled over by law enforcement, a driver should immediately exit the vehicle and quickly approach the officer's squad car.
- True       False
24. If drivers need to obtain insurance or vehicle registration information from the glove box, they should inform the police officer before doing so.
- True       False
25. All vehicles are required to stop within how many feet of the nearest rail of a railroad crossing when a train is approaching?
- between 15 and 50 feet.
  - between 5 and 10 feet.
  - 10 feet.

26. When approaching a railroad crossing that has no warning signals (such as electric flashing lights or gates), a driver should look, listen and slow down.
- True       False
27. If moving with a stream of vehicles across a railroad track, it is safe to stop on the track for a short period of time.
- True       False
28. After a train clears a crossing that has flashing signals, drivers may proceed after checking for a second train on another track and the lights have stopped flashing.
- True       False

# Chapter 5: Sharing the Road

The driver of a passenger vehicle must share the road with many types of vehicles and pedestrians.

## Pedestrians

Both drivers and pedestrians are responsible for traffic safety. A driver should always be prepared to yield the right of way and should not drive unnecessarily close to pedestrians.

When crossing at any place other than a marked or unmarked crosswalk, pedestrians must give the right of way to drivers, this includes between closely spaced intersections where traffic signals are in operation. A pedestrian tunnel or pedestrian crossing bridge should be used when available.

Pedestrians must not walk on a roadway unless there is no sidewalk or shoulder next to it. Under these conditions, pedestrians should always walk as far from the outside edge of the road as possible. In two-way traffic, pedestrians should walk facing oncoming traffic. If a highway does not have a sidewalk but has a shoulder, pedestrians should always walk on the shoulder as far from the roadway as possible. Pedestrians should not walk on a highway when under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

## Pedestrians With Disabilities

When approaching a pedestrian with a disability who is utilizing a guide dog, a white cane, a wheelchair or other assistive device on a sidewalk or roadway, the disabled person has the right of way and is granted the same rights as any pedestrian.

## Joggers/Walkers

Joggers/walkers should use jogging paths when provided. On public roads, joggers/walkers should try to select wide roads with good shoulders. They should face oncoming traffic and remember to look and listen for cars. At night or any time visibility is poor, joggers/walkers should be in well-lit areas and wear reflective clothing.

## Other Safety Concerns

- Pedestrians must always obey railroad and bridge gates and other barriers.
- Standing on the roadway to ask for a ride (hitchhiking) is illegal.
- Pedestrians should not stand on or next to a highway to ask drivers or passengers for any type of money or business.
- Pedestrians ages 18 or older may skate on public roadways where the posted speed limit is 45 mph or less from sunrise to sunset as long as vehicular traffic is not impeded or obstructed.

## **Children**

To ensure the safety of children, drivers and parents should:

- Watch for signs that mark special hazard areas, such as school zones, bus stops, playgrounds, parks and schools.
- Be ready to reduce speed in residential areas, school areas and places where children are most likely to be.
- Be extremely watchful when backing in or out of a driveway when children are near.
- Teach children the rights and responsibilities of pedestrians at an early age.
- Assign play areas for children. Parents should make sure children do not play in or near streets, driveways or other dangerous areas.

## **Motorcycles**

Motorcycle riders have the same rights and responsibilities as other roadway users. Because of their size and vulnerability in a crash, it is important for a driver to pay special attention to motorcycles.

The failure of motorists to detect and recognize motorcycles in traffic is the most common cause of motorcycle crashes. Due to their small size, motorcycles may be difficult to see and motorists tend to underestimate their speed. A driver should expect to see motorcycles in traffic at any time, not just in the spring and summer. Drivers involved in crashes often report not seeing the motorcycle or seeing it too late to avoid a collision.

### **Intersections**

More than 50 percent of all motorcycle crashes occur at intersections. The most common situation occurs when an oncoming automobile makes a left turn in front of a motorcycle. A vehicle driver should watch for motorcycles before turning and yield the right of way. A driver should be particularly careful when making a left turn across lanes of oncoming traffic and should wait to be sure of the motorcycle operator's intent before proceeding to make a left turn.

### **Stoplights**

If a red light fails to turn green after 120 seconds, a motorcyclist may proceed through an intersection after yielding the right of way to oncoming traffic.

### **Lane Sharing**

Traffic conditions and road surfaces will determine the area within the lane that the motorcyclist will use. Although there may be enough room in the traffic lane for an automobile and a motorcyclist, a vehicle driver should remember that the motorcyclist needs the room to maneuver safely and is entitled to the entire lane. A vehicle driver should not share the lane with motorcyclists.

## **Passing**

When being passed by a motorcycle, vehicle drivers should maintain their lane position and speed and allow the motorcycle to complete the maneuver. The vehicle driver should then assume proper lane position as quickly as possible.

## **Following and Stopping Distance**

A vehicle driver should allow at least three to four seconds following distance when behind a motorcycle so the motorcyclist has enough time to maneuver in an emergency. In dry conditions, motorcycles can stop more quickly than a car. Vehicle drivers should dim their headlights when following all vehicles, including motorcycles.

Motorcycles can stop in a shorter distance than a car. A motorcyclist's ability to stop quickly also may depend on the rider's experience and training.

## **Road Conditions**

Motorcycles react differently to traffic, weather and road conditions than cars. Riders may respond in ways a vehicle driver does not expect. Wet or icy roads impair a motorcyclist's ability to brake and maneuver. Wind gusts, both natural and those created by large passing vehicles, can move a motorcycle across an entire lane if the rider is not prepared. Potholes, oil spills, gravel, debris or railroad tracks often require motorcyclists to change positions within their lane. Gravel roads decrease traction and may cause a rider to slow down or brake where a car would not.

## **In Case of a Crash**

Motorcyclists may only be protected by a helmet, eye protection, boots, gloves and durable clothing. In the event of a crash, use extreme caution and seek emergency medical assistance.

More information on motorcycle safety is available in the *Illinois Motorcycle Operators Manual*, which is available at any Driver Services facility or at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com).

# **Autocycles**

An autocycle is a three-wheeled vehicle that has a steering wheel and seating that does not require the driver to straddle or sit astride it. This type of vehicle may be operated on Illinois roadways when correctly titled and registered with the Secretary of State. The operator of the vehicle must have a valid Illinois driver's license to legally operate the vehicle.

# **Bicycles**

## **Manual, Gas or Electric Powered**

On most roadways, bicyclists (including those on electric bikes or gas driven bicycles that do not exceed 20 mph) have the same rights and responsibilities as other roadway users including the right of way.



The following are important laws and safety tips regarding bicyclists:

- Some municipalities have roadways with designated bike lanes. Vehicles are not allowed to drive, park, idle drop off or pick up passengers in these bike lanes even if bicyclists are not present.
- Bicyclists may need to ride outside a bike lane and drivers should be prepared to safely move around them.
- Bicyclists are prohibited on controlled-access highways, expressways and certain other marked roadways.
- Bicyclists are required to travel in the same direction as vehicles.
- Bicyclists should travel just to the right of faster moving traffic. However, certain hazards such as rough surfaces, debris, drainage grates or a narrow traffic lane may require bike riders to move toward the center of the lane.
- Drivers must yield the right of way to a bicyclist just as they would to another vehicle.
- When passing a bicyclist, motorists must do so slowly and leave at least 3 feet of passing space from the edge of the vehicle's side mirror. If there is not 3 feet of passing space, drivers must wait to pass until they can do so safely. If a driver passes too close to a bicyclist and it results in a crash, the driver may face criminal charges.
- Crowding or threatening a bicyclist is prohibited.
- When following bicyclists, a driver should give them plenty of room and be prepared to stop quickly. Extra caution should be used during bad weather.
- High beam lights should not be used at night when approaching an oncoming bicyclist.
- When motorists are turning left and there is a bicyclist entering the intersection from the opposite direction, they should wait for the bicyclist to pass before making the turn. If motorists are sharing the left-turn lane with bicyclists, they should stay behind them until the bicyclists have safely completed their turn.
- If motorists are turning right and a bicyclist is approaching on the right, they should let the bicyclist go through the intersection first before making a right turn. A driver should remember to signal when turning.
- Low-speed electric or gas bicycles must have a motor of less than one horsepower and must be operated by a person who is at least age 16.
- Low-speed electric and gas bicycles may only be driven on streets and may not exceed 20 mph. They may not be driven on sidewalks.
- Low-speed and electric bicycles must follow all laws applicable to bicyclists.
- After parking and before opening vehicle doors, a motorist should first check for bicyclists. Drivers should consider reaching with their right hand to open the vehicle door as this gives them a better opportunity to check their surroundings for oncoming vehicles and bicyclists.



A low-speed electric bicycle is a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts. Low-speed electric bicycles may operate on any authorized highway, street or roadway, including bicycle lanes and bike paths. They may not be operated on sidewalks. Local authorities may prohibit the use of low-speed electric bicycles on roadways or bike paths within their jurisdiction.

There are three classes of low-speed electric bicycles:

- Class 1 — Equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches 20 mph.
- Class 2 — Equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle but not capable of engaging when a bicycle reaches 20 mph.
- Class 3 — Equipped with a motor that engages only when the rider is pedaling and to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches 28 mph. Operators must be at least age 16.

Persons may operate a Class 3 low-speed electric bicycle only if they are 16 years of age or older. A person who is under 16 years of age may ride as a passenger on a Class 3 low-speed electric bicycle that is designed to accommodate passengers.

For more information, an *Illinois Bicycle Rules of the Road* booklet is available at any local Driver Services facility or at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com). Visit [www.bikesafetyquiz.com](http://www.bikesafetyquiz.com) for more information on vehicle and bicycle safety.

## **Scooters and Mopeds**

Only motor-driven cycles and motorcycles properly titled and registered in Illinois may be legally operated on Illinois roadways. A scooter may be titled and registered in Illinois if it displays a federal safety certification label in addition to a vehicle identification number (VIN).

A scooter or moped driver must obey all signs, signals and traffic laws and is subject to most laws regarding the use of bicycles. Mopeds or scooters carrying two people must be equipped with a seat and footrest for the passenger. If driven at night, it must have a headlight visible from at least 500 feet and a taillight on the rear that is visible from at least 100-600 feet.

To determine what type of driver's license is required to operate a scooter or moped on Illinois roadways, a driver should follow these guidelines:

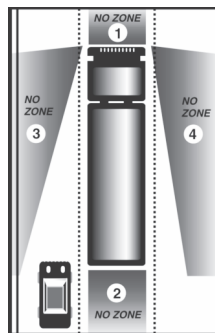
- If the scooter has an engine with less than 150cc displacement, it is a motor-driven cycle and a Class L motorcycle license is required.
- If the scooter has an engine with 150cc displacement or greater, it is a motorcycle and a Class M license is required.
- A moped may be operated with any valid Illinois driver's license. If a combustion engine is used, it may not exceed 50cc displacement and may not require the operator to shift gears.

## **Large Vehicles**

When sharing the road with trucks, buses or other large vehicles, a driver of a smaller vehicle should:

- Stay out of blind spots and maintain a visible position when following a large vehicle. Drivers of large vehicles should be able to see surrounding vehicles in their side mirrors.

- Pay close attention to turn signals and give large vehicles plenty of room to maneuver and make turns. Large vehicles make wide right turns and sometimes leave an open space to the right just before the turn.
- Always allow extra space for large vehicles. Size and weight can affect a large vehicle's ability to maneuver and stop.
- Always dim headlights when following a truck at night. Bright lights will blind the drivers of large vehicles when they reflect off the large side mirrors.
- Blink the vehicle's headlights when passing a truck to let the truck driver know, especially at night. The truck driver may make it easier by staying to the far side of the lane. The pass should be completed as quickly as possible to avoid staying alongside the truck.



## Disabled Vehicles

When drivers approach any disabled vehicle using hazard lights on a four-lane highway, Illinois law requires drivers to change lanes away from the disabled vehicle if it is safe to do so. If it is not safe to change lanes, the driver should reduce speed when approaching and passing the disabled vehicle. Speed should not be increased until well past the disabled vehicle.

Illinois law states a person may not:

- Push a disabled vehicle on a rural highway unless there is an emergency and it should be removed to avoid a hazard.
- Remove a wrecked or damaged vehicle from the roadway without removing all glass and other debris.
- Tow one vehicle with another except by a drawbar. In most cases, the distance between the two cars should not exceed 15 feet. A towed vehicle should be coupled to the towing vehicle with two chains or cables.

Illinois law requires a disabled, unattended or abandoned vehicle to be removed from the roadway as soon as possible. Law enforcement may request a vehicle be towed at the owner's expense if it has been left along a roadway after a certain period of time.

- Interstate, Expressway or Toll Highway – after two hours.
- Highway in an urban area – after 10 hours.
- Highway in a non-urban area – after 24 hours.

## Low-Speed Vehicles

A low-speed vehicle is any four-wheeled vehicle that has a federal safety certification label in addition to a vehicle identification number (VIN). Low-speed vehicles can have a maximum speed of 25 mph. Low-speed vehicles must be titled and registered in the same manner as any other vehicle. Low-speed vehicles may operate on any street with a posted speed limit

of 30 mph or less, unless prohibited by the local municipality. Low-speed vehicles must be equipped with the following:

- Parking brake.
- Steering wheel.
- Tires.
- Windshield.
- Safety belts.
- Rearview mirror.
- Exterior rearview mirror – mounted on driver’s side of the vehicle.
- Red reflectors – mounted on each rear side of the vehicle and one in the middle.
- Headlight – visible for 500 feet from the front.
- Taillights – red light visible for 100 feet from the rear.
- Brake lights.
- Front and rear turn signals.

NOTE: Definitions of this required equipment are available on page 91.

## **Slow-Moving Vehicles**

Certain slow-moving farm vehicles, construction equipment and animal-drawn vehicles may share the roadways. A driver should use caution and prepare to slow down when approaching and passing slow-moving vehicles from the rear. An orange slow-moving vehicle emblem must be on the rear of certain slow-moving vehicles. (See page 75.)

### **Closing Speeds**

Normal speeds for slow-moving vehicles may range from 5-20 mph. When a vehicle traveling at normal highway speed approaches a slow-moving vehicle from the rear, the speed differential will dramatically shorten the time it takes to reach the slow-moving vehicle.

### **Turns and Passing**

Slow-moving vehicles may make wide turns and may turn right or left at any time into unmarked entrances. A driver should stay a safe distance behind a slow-moving vehicle when approaching it from the rear and only pass when it is safe to do so. Drivers should be certain that the slow-moving vehicle operator is aware of their presence and intent to pass before beginning the maneuver.

### **Rear Light**

When lights are required, a flashing amber signal must be mounted as high as possible on the rear of the vehicle. It must be visible for 500 feet in sunlight. Other devices to identify slow-moving vehicles may include reflectors or rotating or oscillating amber lights.

### **Lane Usage**

Slower traffic must drive in the right lane. The left lane is for passing and turning. Slow-moving vehicles may be wider than the lane width so it may be necessary for these vehicles to temporarily move into an adjoining lane to avoid roadside obstructions.

## Snowmobiles

During the winter, a driver may share the roadway with snowmobiles. A driver should use care when driving in areas with snowmobile warning signs. Information on snowmobile registration and operating requirements is available by calling the Illinois Department of Natural Resources at 866-867-3542 or by visiting [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov).

## Horseback Riders

Horseback riders may use public roadways. The exceptions are controlled-access highways and most expressways. Horseback riders must ride in the same direction as other traffic and as far to the right as possible. A driver should never sound a horn when near a horse or other livestock as the sound may frighten it and cause a crash. When meeting or passing a horseback rider, a driver should do so with caution and be prepared to stop.

### — Chapter 5 Study Questions —

1. When motorists are turning right and a bicyclist is approaching on the right, they should let the bicyclist go through the intersection first before making a right turn.  
 True     False
2. A driver does not need to allow as much distance when following a motorcycle as when following a car.  
 True     False
3. Motorcyclists are entitled to use the full width of a traffic lane; therefore, a driver should pass a motorcycle the same way a driver would pass another vehicle.  
 True     False
4. When following a truck at night, it is important for drivers to dim their vehicle's headlights.  
 True     False
5. When approaching a disabled pedestrian using a guide dog, white cane or other assistive device, a driver should yield the right of way.  
 True     False
6. When opening your driver's side door in a road with oncoming vehicle and bicycle traffic, you should:
  - a. Open the vehicle door by reaching across with your right hand to get a better view of the vehicle and bicycle traffic approaching from behind.
  - b. Open the vehicle door only when it does not interfere with the vehicle and bicycle traffic approaching from behind.
  - c. Open the vehicle door with your left hand and then check for oncoming vehicle and bicycle traffic.
  - d. Both a and b.

# Chapter 6: Driving Under the Influence

Alcohol is the number one killer on American roadways. Alcohol affects a person's vision and slows reaction time so it takes longer to act in an emergency. Alcohol affects a person's driving even if they are below the level of illegal intoxication. Drinking even a small amount of alcohol increases the chances of causing a crash.

## Blood-Alcohol Concentration (BAC)/Presence of Drugs

Blood-alcohol concentration (BAC) is a measurement of the amount of alcohol in a person's system based on a test of breath, blood, urine or other bodily substance. It is illegal to drive if a person's BAC is .08 percent or more. However, a person can be convicted of Driving Under the Influence (DUI) when the BAC is less than .08 percent, but driving ability is impaired.

Other factors affect a person's reaction to alcohol, including the food recently eaten, tolerance of alcohol and any drugs consumed. Time is the only way to remove the effects of alcohol. Food, coffee and showers do not speed up the elimination of alcohol from the body.

It is illegal to operate a motor vehicle on Illinois highways with a cannabis tetrahydrocannabinol concentration (THC) of either 5 nanograms or more per milliliter of whole blood or 10 nanograms or more per milliliter of other bodily substance. It is illegal to operate a motor vehicle on Illinois highways with any trace of a controlled drug, substance or intoxicating compound in the blood.

## Medical Cannabis (Marijuana)

Illinois law allows for the medical and recreational use of cannabis for persons ages 21 and older. Individuals who wish to use cannabis for medicinal purposes may enroll in the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program, administered by the Illinois Department of Public Health. The Department of Public Health will issue a registry ID card, and a notation will be made on the registrant's Illinois Driving record.

A driver may not operate a motor vehicle while impaired by the use of cannabis, whether used medically or recreationally. Cannabis may only be transported in a vehicle in an odor-proof and child-resistant container. No driver or passenger may use cannabis in a motor vehicle. If a police officer stops a vehicle and the officer has reasonable suspicion to believe the person is impaired by the use of cannabis, the driver must submit to field sobriety testing and/or validated roadside chemical tests. Refusal to submit to testing or failure of field sobriety tests and/or validated roadside chemical tests will result in the suspension of the person's driver's license.

Driving while impaired by the use of cannabis or illegal transportation of cannabis in a motor vehicle may result in the loss of driving privileges, and for a medical cannabis registry card holder, the revocation of the driver's medical cannabis card.

## Other Drugs

In addition to alcohol and cannabis, many prescription and nonprescription drugs impair safe driving. These drugs include but are not limited to: antihistamines, cold remedies, pain relievers, mood-changing drugs, hashish, LSD, heroin, cocaine, morphine, amphetamines and methamphetamines. Mixing even small amounts of alcohol with other drugs is very dangerous.

## DUI Laws

Driving under the influence (DUI) is a serious offense that is classified in Illinois as a violent crime. If drivers are convicted of DUI, the offense will permanently remain on their driving record. If drivers are arrested and/or convicted, they may lose their driving privileges, vehicle registration, be fined and/or imprisoned.

### Implied Consent Law

When operating on Illinois roadways, a driver automatically consents to submit to certain tests. These can include breath, blood, urine or other bodily substance tests to determine if a driver is under the influence. If a person is involved in a personal injury crash or a crash resulting in the death of another person, law enforcement officers may have probable cause to believe a driver was impaired and must request a drug or alcohol test. Illinois drivers may have a qualified person of their choice administer additional tests at their own expense.

If a driver refuses to take a breath test or if an officer believes that a blood test may disclose the presence of drugs, the driver may be held financially liable up to \$500 for the costs of the blood tests if found guilty of DUI.

### Statutory Summary Suspension/Revocation Law

If a chemical test discloses a BAC of .08 percent or more, a THC level of either 5 nanograms or more per milliliter of whole blood or 10 nanograms or more per milliliter of other bodily substance, driving privileges will be suspended for six months. This also applies to any amount of a drug substance or intoxicating compound resulting from the unlawful use or consumption of a controlled substance listed in the Illinois Controlled Substances Act, an intoxicating compound listed in the Use of Intoxicating Compounds Act or methamphetamine as listed in the Methamphetamine Control and Community Protection Act. If a driver refuses to submit to chemical testing, driving privileges will be suspended for one year.

A driver who has a previous statutory summary suspension/revocation from Illinois, a suspension for refusing a chemical test from another state, court supervision for DUI or a conviction for DUI within the last five years is considered a second offender and will have his/her driving privileges suspended for three years for refusal of chemical testing or one year for failure of chemical testing. A test refusal may be used as evidence against a driver. At the time of arrest, the officer will take the driver's license and, if valid, provide the driver with a temporary receipt allowing the individual to drive for 45 days. The statutory summary suspension begins on the 46th day from the notice date provided by the police officer and

will not be terminated until the driver pays the reinstatement fee and the driving record is updated.

If a driver refuses to submit to chemical testing after being involved in a crash where serious personal injury or death was involved, driving privileges will be revoked for a minimum of one year.

### **DUI Conviction**

In addition to a statutory summary suspension/revocation, a driver may be convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol, other drugs and/or intoxicating compounds.

A DUI conviction results in a revocation of driving privileges:

- A first conviction results in a minimum one-year revocation.
- A second conviction within 20 years results in a minimum five-year revocation.
- A third conviction results in a minimum 10-year revocation.
- A fourth and subsequent conviction results in a lifetime revocation.

A person convicted of a DUI with a BAC of .16 percent or more or a DUI while transporting a child under age 16 may be subject to enhanced penalties.

Before driving privileges are restored, the person must undergo an alcohol/drug evaluation, successfully complete a rehabilitation or alcohol/drug education program, have an administrative hearing with the Secretary of State, pay a reinstatement fee and/or meet other requirements. A DUI conviction also requires a driver to file Financial Responsibility Insurance for three years.

If an Illinois resident is convicted of DUI or refuses to submit to alcohol/drug testing in another state, the conviction or refusal will be reported to the Secretary of State's office and be reflected on the person's driving record. The offender will face administrative action against their driving privileges the same as if they were convicted of a DUI or refused chemical testing in Illinois.

### **Breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device (BAIID)**

All eligible Illinois drivers who are first-time DUI offenders, may apply for a Monitoring Device Driving Permit (MDDP). An MDDP requires a Breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device (BAIID) to be installed on their vehicle(s) at an approved installation site as a condition of driving relief during a statutory summary suspension period. Unless declared indigent, the DUI offender is responsible for all costs associated with issuance of a permit and installation and monitoring of the BAIID.

The Secretary of State's office monitors the BAIID throughout the duration of the permit. The BAIID will alert the Secretary of State's office if the driver attempts to start the vehicle after drinking alcohol or tampers with the device.



A first-time DUI offender may choose not to petition for an MDDP and instead choose to refrain from driving during the suspension period. If a DUI offender chooses not to participate in the program and is subsequently caught driving a vehicle during the suspension period, he/she is guilty of a felony.

## **Related DUI Offenses**

### **Aggravated DUI**

Drivers may be charged with Aggravated DUI if they:

- Are involved in a death or personal injury crash while driving under the influence.
- Have received a third or subsequent DUI.
- Committed DUI while driving a school bus with children or operating a vehicle for hire such as a limousine.
- Committed DUI without a valid driver's license, permit or vehicle insurance.
- Received a DUI after a previous history of reckless homicide or Aggravated DUI involving a death.

### **Illegal Transportation of Alcoholic Beverages/Open Container**

It is illegal for anyone to drink alcoholic beverages in a vehicle. The driver and passengers may be issued a traffic citation. Passengers on chartered buses used for nonschool purposes, motor homes, mini motor homes and limousines are exempt. It is illegal to have alcohol in the passenger area of a vehicle if the container has been opened.

### **Operating a Motorboat While Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs**

It is illegal to operate a motorboat under the influence of alcohol, drugs or intoxicating compounds. Individuals involved in a motorboat crash where injuries or death occur may lose their driving privileges for refusing to submit to chemical testing to determine their BAC. Driving privileges may also be lost for submitting to testing that discloses a BAC of .08; a THC level of either 5 nanograms or more per milliliter of whole blood or 10 nanograms or more per milliliter of other bodily substance; any amount of a drug, substance or intoxicating compound resulting from the unlawful use or consumption of a controlled substance listed in the Illinois Controlled Substances Act; or intoxicating compound listed in the Use of Intoxicating Compounds Act or methamphetamine as listed in the Methamphetamine Control and Community Protection Act.

### **Parental Responsibility**

It is illegal for a parent or legal guardian to allow persons under age 21 to consume alcoholic beverages or fail to control access to alcohol on their private property or on any property under their control including a vehicle or water craft. If a death or personal injury occurs as a result of consumption, the parent or legal guardian may face criminal penalties.

## **Driving on a Suspended or Revoked License (for DUI, Aggravated DUI, Reckless Homicide, or Leaving the Scene of a Fatal or Personal Injury Crash)**

Drivers who are convicted of driving while their license is revoked or suspended for the above offenses will:

- Be subject to criminal penalties including jail time,
- Have the suspension or revocation period extended.
- Have their vehicle seized and possibly forfeited.

An Illinois driver whose driving privileges have been suspended or revoked due to a conviction for DUI, reckless homicide, or leaving the scene of a fatal or personal injury crash is not allowed to drive a motor vehicle in ANY state. If a suspended or revoked Illinois driver is arrested for driving on a suspended or revoked license in another state, that arrest will be reported to the Secretary of State's office.

## **Contributing to a DUI**

It is illegal for drivers to allow their vehicle to be driven by someone they know to be under the influence. If convicted of providing alcohol to a person under age 21, a person may be fined, sentenced to jail and have his/her driving privileges suspended.

## **Drivers Under Age 21**

Drivers who are under age 21 and convicted of DUI face the revocation of driving privileges for a minimum of two years for a first conviction.

Drivers who are under age 21 and found to have any trace of alcohol in their system while operating a motor vehicle will have their driving privileges suspended for a minimum of three months.

All individuals under age 21 who are convicted of or receive court supervision for illegal consumption, purchase, possession or receiving alcohol as a gift will lose their driving privileges regardless of whether or not they are operating a motor vehicle at the time of the offense.

If the driver's license was suspended prior to age 21, the driver will be required to successfully complete a driver remedial education course. In addition, the driver may be required to submit to a complete driver's license examination to be re-issued a driver's license. It is at the discretion of the investigating officer and based on test results or a test refusal whether a traffic stop results in a Zero Tolerance or DUI charge or both.

Illinois DUI laws are constantly changing. More information is available in the Secretary of State's *DUI Fact Book* or by visiting [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com).

## — Chapter 6 Study Questions —

1. If arrested with a blood-alcohol concentration of .08 percent or more, an individual's driving privileges will be suspended for at least six months.  
 True     False
2. Alcohol is the single greatest factor in fatal motor vehicle crashes.  
 True     False
3. A driver may be charged with Aggravated DUI if he/she
  - a. Is involved in a DUI crash resulting in death or personal injury.
  - b. Commit a DUI while driving a school bus.
  - c. Receives a DUI after a previous history of reckless homicide.
  - d. All of the above.
4. If a driver is arrested and refuses to submit to testing, driving privileges will be suspended for three months.  
 True     False
5. Drivers whose license have been revoked as a result of DUI must meet several requirements, including an evaluation for alcohol and drug problems and paying a reinstatement fee, to regain their license.  
 True     False
6. It is illegal for persons under age 21 to drive with any trace of alcohol or drugs in their systems.  
 True     False

# Chapter 7: Traffic Violations/Crashes

Drivers who are involved in or come upon a traffic crash should:

- Stop their vehicle in a safe, well-lit public place that does not obstruct traffic, if able to do so.
- Help any injured person if necessary or requested.
- Call 9-1-1 immediately.
- Warn other drivers by using emergency flashers and flares if available.
- Ask all those involved for their names, addresses, phone numbers, driver's license numbers and license plate numbers.

## Appearing in Court

If a driver receives a ticket for a minor traffic violation, a date for a court appearance will appear on the face of the ticket. If the driver fails to pay the ticket or to appear in court on the date indicated, a second court date may be set a minimum of 30 days later. The clerk of the court will send a notice to the driver at the last known address. Failure to appear on the second date will result in the suspension of the individual's driver's license until the court is satisfied and a reinstatement fee is paid. Drivers who are under age 18 and required to appear in court must have a parent/legal guardian present at the court appearance.

An Illinois driver ticketed in another state that is a member of the Non-Resident Violator Compact has three options:

- Stay in the ticketing state and argue the case,
- Pay the fine, or
- Promise to comply with the traffic ticket, which allows the driver to continue the journey and handle the ticket by mail from home. This courtesy also is extended to non-residents from compact member states who are ticketed in Illinois. Failure to comply with the promise to appear will result in a driver's license suspension by the home state's motor vehicle department.

## Crash Reports

Regardless of fault, a crash report must be filed by the driver of a vehicle if the crash involves death, bodily injury or property damage of more than \$1,500. (If any vehicle involved in the crash is uninsured, a report must be filed for \$500 or more.)

A driver has 30 minutes to report a crash after it occurs. If drivers are involved in a crash, they should notify the police immediately. Many towns and cities require a report if a crash occurs within their limits. If an officer is not at the scene of the crash, a report must be made at the nearest police station as soon as possible. If in a rural area, the county sheriff or Illinois State Police must be notified. If the driver is unable to make the report and there is a passenger, the passenger must make the report.

A report also must be made to the Illinois Department of Transportation. This confidential report must be sent no later than 10 days after the crash. The form may be obtained from a police officer or an automobile insurance agency.

Drivers who fail to report a vehicle crash may be fined up to \$2,500 and given a jail sentence of up to one year.

## **Leaving the Scene of a Crash**

A driver convicted of leaving the scene of a crash, especially if personal injuries or death occurs, is subject to criminal charges. In cases where a death or personal injury has occurred, the Secretary of State's office is required to revoke the individual's driver's license. In cases where damage is more than \$1,000, driving privileges will be suspended.

## **Unattended Vehicles**

Drivers who are involved in a crash that causes damage to an unattended vehicle (no driver or passenger present) or other property should:

- Stop their vehicle in an area away from traffic.
- Leave their name, address, phone number and license plate number on the vehicle or property if the owner cannot be found.
- Notify police.
- Complete all required crash reports.

## **Safety Responsibility Law**

Drivers who are at fault in a crash that results in death, injury or property damage and do not have liability insurance must also meet the requirements of the Safety Responsibility Law. This law requires the driver to post security (a guarantee of payment) to cover damages suffered by the injured party. The Illinois Department of Transportation determines the amount of the security. If drivers do not post the required security(s), their driver's license may be suspended until the lawsuit is settled. The owner(s) of the vehicle involved in the crash also may have their license plates/vehicle registration suspended. Driver's license or vehicle registration privileges will remain suspended until the driver provides proof of financial responsibility and maintains the insurance for a period of three years from the date the proof is first filed.

Individuals convicted of mandatory insurance violations will lose their driving privileges for a minimum of three months and be required to pay a \$100 reinstatement fee, with no driving permit available.

## Financial Responsibility Law

Drivers are required to file proof of financial responsibility if any of the following apply:

- They receive an unsatisfied court judgment related to a crash.
- The driver's license was suspended under the Safety Responsibility Law due to an uninsured crash.
- They receive a court supervision for a mandatory insurance violation.
- They have been convicted of three or more mandatory insurance violations.

Proof of financial responsibility may include a certificate of insurance (SR-22), a bond or a deposit of securities (such as stock certificates). The SR-22 is filed directly with the Secretary of State by the insurance company. The Secretary of State monitors insurance coverage for a period of time specified by law. Failure to renew insurance coverage or cancellation of insurance will result in a driver's license suspension.

## Crash Prevention Courses

Drivers who are age 55 or over may receive a reduction in their motor vehicle liability insurance if they successfully complete an eight-hour defensive driving course. Drivers may contact their insurance agent to determine the amount of the reduction. Information about courses is available by visiting [www.aarp.org/drive](http://www.aarp.org/drive).

### — Chapter 7 Study Questions —

1. Regardless of fault, a crash report must be filed by the driver of a vehicle if the crash involves death, bodily injury or property damage of more than \$1,500 (or more than \$500 if a vehicle is uninsured).  
 True     False
2. Before drivers can regain driving privileges after losing them for failure to pay for damages caused by a crash, they must file proof of financial responsibility with the Secretary of State's office.  
 True     False
3. Drivers who are involved in or come upon a traffic crash should stop their vehicle in a safe, well-lit public place that does not obstruct traffic, if able to do so.  
 True     False
4. A driver has 30 minutes to report a crash after it occurs.  
 True     False
5. Drivers convicted of a mandatory insurance violation will:
  - a. Lose their driving privileges for three months.
  - b. Lose their driving privileges for six months.
  - c. Lose their driving privileges for one year.

6. Drivers are required to file proof of financial responsibility if:
- a. They receive an unsatisfied court judgment related to a crash
  - b. Their license was suspended due to an uninsured crash.
  - c. They have been convicted of three or more insurance violations.
  - d. All of the above.

# Chapter 8: Driver's License Revocation, Suspension, Denial and Cancellation

Certain revocations, suspensions, denials and cancellations can remain on an individual's driving record permanently.

Driving while a driver's license is suspended or revoked will result in an extension of the suspension or revocation period and may subject the driver to a period of incarceration. More information on actions that may cause the suspension or revocation of driving privileges is available in the *Illinois Vehicle Code*.

## Revocation

A revocation is the indefinite withdrawal of driving privileges by the Secretary of State's office. To regain driving privileges, a driver may be eligible to reapply for a license after a minimum of one year, unless otherwise noted.

The Secretary of State will immediately revoke the driving privileges of anyone who is convicted of a moving violation that caused a crash and resulted in the death of another person.

The Secretary of State's office has the authority to revoke the driver's license of a repeat traffic offender. During the course of any revocation, a driver's vehicle registration may be suspended and notice is given accordingly.

Other offenses for which a driver's license may be revoked include, but are not limited to:

- **Aggravated DUI** — Causing personal injury or death as a result of a DUI; having a prior conviction of reckless homicide or aggravated DUI involving a death and committing a DUI; receiving a third or subsequent DUI conviction; committing a DUI without a valid license, permit or vehicle insurance; or committing a DUI violation while transporting children on a school bus.
- **Aggravated Fleeing the Police** — Driving away from the police when directed to stop.
- **Aggravated Reckless Driving** — Driving resulting in great bodily harm, permanent disability or disfigurement to another person.
- **Auto Theft** — Stealing a motor vehicle or motor vehicle parts.
- **Drag Racing or Street Racing** — Illegally racing with another vehicle.
- **DUI** — Driving under the influence of alcohol, cannabis, other drugs and/or intoxicating compounds.
- **Felony Offense** — Using a vehicle while committing a serious crime.
- **Fraudulent ID** — Making or possessing the equipment to make, sell, use, attempt to use or assist another in using an unauthorized, non-governmental issued ID or driver's license.
- **Gang-related Activity** — A gang-related offense involving the use of a vehicle or an Illinois driver's license.



- **Leaving the Scene** — Leaving the scene of a crash that killed or injured someone.
- **Perjury** — Giving false information to the Secretary of State.
- **Reckless Conduct** — Reckless behavior involving a vehicle and resulting in injury or danger to another person.
- **Reckless Driving** — Conviction of three reckless driving offenses in 12 months or driving that results in great bodily harm, permanent disability or disfigurement to another person.
- **Reckless Homicide** — Driving recklessly, resulting in the death of another person or being involved in a crash where a death occurred while driving on a suspended or revoked license due to an aggravated DUI .
- **School Bus Violation** — Conviction for overtaking or passing a school bus that results in a crash where a death occurred.

## Suspension

A suspension is the temporary loss of driving privileges. When the suspension is for a specific length of time, a driver may regain driving privileges after the suspension has ended and a reinstatement fee has been paid. In some cases, the driver's license will not be returned until other requirements are met.

Offenses for which a driver's license may be suspended include, but are not limited to:

- **Automated Traffic Violations** — Failure to pay five or more unpaid automated traffic violations for violating a red-light signal or speeding or a combination thereof in a municipality.
- **Causing a Crash in a Construction Zone** — Failure to reduce speed or change lanes in a construction zone, which results in property damage to another or injury or death of another.
- **Child Visitation Abuse** — Suspension upon receipt of a court order indicating the driver has engaged in abuse of a child visitation order.
- **Drug/Alcohol Test Failure** — Failure of chemical testing following a DUI arrest disclosing a BAC of .08 percent or more, a THC level of either 5 nanograms or more per milliliter of whole blood or 10 nanograms or more per milliliter of other bodily substance or any trace of a controlled substance, or intoxicating compound.
- **Drug/Alcohol Test Refusal** — Refusal of chemical testing for drugs or alcohol after being arrested for DUI in Illinois or another state.
- **Drug or Sex Offense** — Committing a drug or sex crime while operating or in direct physical control of an automobile.
- **Failure to Appear Violations** — Failure to appear in court for any traffic citation.
- **Failure to Obey a Railroad-Crossing Signal** — Conviction of a second violation for failure to obey a railroad-crossing signal.
- **Failure to Pay Child Support** — Suspension for nonpayment of child support resulting from a court order or by direction of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services.

- **Failure to Yield to an Emergency Vehicle Using Audible and Visual Signals** (lights and sirens) — Failure to reduce speed and to change lanes away from a stationary emergency vehicle that results in property damage to another or injury or death to another.
- **Fraudulent Driver's License/ID Application** — Possessing, displaying or attempting to use an altered driver's license or ID card; using another person's license or ID card or allowing another person to use the license; or submitting a fraudulent application or allowing another person to submit documents for a fraudulent application.
- **Illegal Possession, Consumption, Purchase of Alcohol, or Accepting Alcohol as a Gift by a Person Under Age 21.**
- **Illegal Transportation of Alcohol** — Illegal transportation of alcohol twice in 12 months if age 21 or older.
- **Illegal Transportation Under 21** — Illegal transportation of alcohol while under age 21.
- **Mandatory Insurance Violations** — Failure to file Financial Responsibility Insurance (SR-22) after receiving court supervision for driving without insurance, or having three or more tickets for driving without insurance.
- **Mandatory Insurance Conviction** — Driving without mandatory insurance.
- **Parking Violations** — Failure to pay for 10 or more unpaid parking violations in any municipality.
- **Railroad Crossing Violation** — Nonpayment of five or more violations.
- **School Bus Violations** — Failure to stop for a school bus picking up or dropping off children, or failure to pay five or more violations of yielding to a stopped school bus when recorded by a camera.
- **Speeding in a Construction Zone** — A second violation within two years of the previous violation of speeding in a construction zone when workers are present.
- **Theft of Motor Fuel** — Dispensing motor fuel into a container or fuel tank and leaving the premises without making payment.
- **Tollway Violation** — Failure to pay five or more toll violations and/or toll evasions.
- **Traffic Crashes** — Refusing or neglecting to report a traffic crash.
- **Traffic Violations** — Three traffic violation convictions during a 12-month period (If the driver is under age 21 at the time of arrest, two traffic violations within any 24-month period).
- **Unauthorized Parking in a Space Designated for Persons with Disabilities.**
- **Uninsured Crashes** — Being an at-fault driver in a traffic crash without insurance where damages are owed.
- **Zero Tolerance Violation** — An alcohol violation by a person under age 21.

## Cancellation

Cancellation is the termination of driving privileges by formal action of the Secretary of State's office. Cancellation of a person's driver's license or permit will occur because of an error or defect in the license or because the licensee is no longer entitled to the license. Reapplication for a driver's license may be made only after the terms of the cancellation have been met.

The reasons a driver's license may be canceled include but are not limited to the following:

- **Medical Condition** — Being medically or visually unfit to safely operate a motor vehicle; failure to submit a medical or vision report when required; and failure to self-admit to a medical condition that may interfere with the safe operation of a motor vehicle.
- **Re-examination Requirement** — Failing to appear for a required re-examination; failing a portion of the test required on a mandatory re-examination.
- **Fraudulent Application** — Committing a fraudulent offense in the making of a driver's license or ID card application.
- **Ineligible** — Being unentitled to the license or permit.

## Denial

Denial is the temporary refusal of the privilege of applying for a driver's license and, in certain instances, an instruction permit. A denial can be entered on the driving record of an individual under age 18 for conviction of one of the following offenses:

- **Mandatory Revocation of Driving Privileges for Offenses Listed on Pages 58-59** — A denial for these offenses prohibits individuals from applying for a driver's license or an instruction permit until their 18th birthday.
- **Driving Without a Valid Driver's License or Permit** — Such a denial forbids individuals from applying for a driver's license until their 18th birthday, while an application for an instruction permit is still allowed. If the person already has a driver's license, the driving privileges granted by that license are reduced to an instruction permit.
- **Serious Moving Violation** — The length of this type of denial is either nine months or until the person's 18th birthday, whichever is shorter. This denial only forbids an application for a driver's license. Instruction permit applications are still allowed. If the person already has a driver's license, the driving privileges granted are reduced to an instruction permit.
- **Crash Involving Bodily Harm or Death** — The Secretary of State's office may deny issuing or renewing a driver's license if the driver has been charged with an offense due to a crash resulting in serious injury or death of another. Alcohol need not play a factor in the crash.

## Special Driving Permits

An Illinois driver whose driving privileges have been revoked or suspended may be allowed to drive using special permits in certain cases. These permits are:

- **Restricted Driving Permit (RDP)** — Allows driving only during certain times and along specified routes for work-related or educational purposes, transporting a child in the home to and from day care or an acceptable educational institution, or to receive medical care or drug treatment. An RDP cannot be issued to a person under age 16.
- **Monitoring Device Driving Permit (MDDP)** — Allows a first-time DUI offender serving a statutory summary suspension to operate a motor vehicle. The MDDP is needed in order for individuals to have a Breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device (BAIID) installed on their vehicle. Issuance of the MDDP and installation of the BAIID allows drivers to legally operate a motor vehicle at any time of day or night as long as they do not consume

alcohol prior to driving and do not tamper with the BAID unit. An MDDP cannot be issued to a person under age 18.

- **Occupational Driving Permit (ODP)** — Allows a professional driver whose license has been suspended for three moving violations to operate a vehicle in conjunction with employment. To qualify, the individual must drive for a living. This permit does not apply to commercial drivers.
- **Probationary License** — Allows a driver age 21 and over, whose license has been suspended for three moving violations in a 12-month period, to operate a vehicle during the period of suspension. The permit can be issued for no more than three months. This is issued in conjunction with a driver improvement activity that grants full driving privileges during a period of suspension for drivers ages 21 and over. The license may only be issued to a person suspended for three moving violations in a 12-month period and cannot be issued for more than three months.
- **Family Financial Responsibility Driving Permit (FRP)** — Allows a driver whose license was suspended for nonpayment of child support or child visitation abuse to operate a vehicle. This permit is only issued following a circuit judge's order or upon direction from the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services.

## — Chapter 8 Study Questions —

1. An individual's driving privileges may be suspended under which of the following conditions?
  - a. Three reckless driving offenses in 12 months.
  - b. Drag or street racing.
  - c. Illegally transporting alcohol twice in 12 months by a person over age 21.
2. Driving privileges may be revoked for giving false information to the Secretary of State.  
 True     False
3. A driver's license may be canceled if a driver is found medically or visually unfit to safely operate a vehicle.  
 True     False
4. Restricted Driving Permits can be issued to any suspended or revoked driver.  
 True     False
5. A driver's license may be suspended for:
  - a. Failure to obey a railroad crossing signal.
  - b. Possessing a fraudulent driver's license.
  - c. Failure to stop for a school bus.
  - d. All of the above.

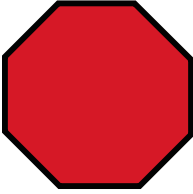
6. A driver's license may be revoked for:
- a. Leaving the scene of a crash that injured or killed someone.
  - b. Giving false information to the Secretary of State.
  - c. Reckless behavior involving a vehicle that leads to the injury or death of someone.
  - d. All of the above.

# Chapter 9: Roadway Signs

Along the roadway there are many types of signs: regulatory, warning and guide. Each type of sign is identified by its shape and color. Applicants will be asked to identify roadway signs on the written driver's license exam.

## Shapes of Signs

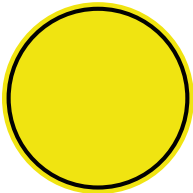
These are the basic shapes of signs, each with a special purpose. Other shapes may be used for special purposes.



This eight-sided red sign means STOP. A driver must make a complete stop at the stop line. If there is no stop line, the driver should stop before entering the crosswalk. If there is no crosswalk, the driver should stop before entering the intersection. A driver should yield the right of way to pedestrians and approaching traffic. At an all-way STOP sign, drivers should wait for their turn. If the STOP sign is a temporary sign erected by highway authorities, it should be treated as if it were a permanent STOP sign. If the STOP sign is handheld, the driver should stop until an authorized person, such as a school guard or construction zone flagger, signals that it is safe to proceed.



This three-sided sign means YIELD the right of way. A driver must let all traffic and pedestrians go before proceeding. YIELD signs are red and white.



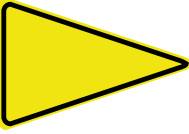
This round sign indicates a RAILROAD CROSSING ahead. RAILROAD CROSSING signs are yellow with a black crossbuck "X" and the letters "RR." It is an advance warning sign that means a railroad track will cross the roadway ahead. In rural areas the sign may be up to 750 feet in advance of the railroad crossing. A driver should slow down, look and stop if necessary. A driver should roll down the vehicle windows and listen to make certain other noises do not block out the sound of a train. If a train is approaching, the driver should stop and wait. A driver should never race the train to the crossing.



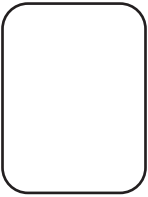
This diamond-shaped sign means WARNING. It may be yellow, yellow-green, or orange with black wording or symbols. This sign warns a driver about hazards or possible hazards on or near the roadway. Drivers should slow down and use caution when they see this type of sign.



This five-sided sign is yellow or yellow-green with black symbols. It means either SCHOOL ZONE or SCHOOL CROSSING. If the sign shows two children walking, a school is near. If the sign shows two children walking with a downward pointing arrow, the driver and vehicle are at a school crossing.



This three-sided sign is yellow with black and indicates a NO PASSING ZONE. The sign will appear on the left side of a two-lane, two-way roadway at the beginning of the area where "no passing" pavement markings are also used.



Squares and/or rectangles can be used either as regulatory or guide signs.

## Colors of Signs

The color on a sign has a special meaning. It is important that a driver memorizes the meanings of the colors.



RED signs are regulatory signs and must be obeyed. They include STOP, YIELD, DO NOT ENTER or WRONG WAY.



Some BLACK and WHITE signs are regulatory signs and must be obeyed. Others are used as route markers and are illustrated in the Guide Signs section on page 75.



YELLOW is used for warning signs. These signs tell a driver of road conditions and dangers ahead.



YELLOW-GREEN can also be used for warning signs. These signs alert a driver to pedestrian and bicycle crossings, playground areas, school bus stops and school zones.



ORANGE is used for warning signs usually found in constructions or maintenance zones along streets and highways. These signs alert a driver to possible dangers ahead due to construction and maintenance projects.



GREEN is used for guide signs. These signs tell drivers where they are, which way to go and the distance to upcoming destinations.



BLUE also is used for guide signs. These signs tell a driver about services along the roadway.



BROWN is used for parks and recreation signs.



PINK may be used for traffic incident signing. These signs alert a driver to possible dangers ahead due to unplanned traffic incidents, such as traffic crashes and natural disasters.

## Regulatory Signs

Regulatory signs instruct drivers on what to do. Drivers must obey these signs.



### Stop

An eight-sided (octagon) sign tells a driver to always make a full stop at the stop line. If there is no stop line, the driver should stop before entering the crosswalk. If there is no crosswalk, the driver should stop before entering the intersection. A driver should yield the right of way to pedestrians and approaching traffic.



### All-Way Stop

This sign means there are STOP signs at each approach to an intersection and traffic from all directions must stop. The first driver to stop is the first driver to go. Other drivers must wait their turn. A driver may also see 3-WAY, 5-WAY or ALL-WAY signs underneath the stop sign.



### Yield

The three-sided (triangle) sign tells a driver to give the right of way to all vehicles and pedestrians before proceeding. A driver should slow down to a safe speed and stop if necessary. When stopping, the driver must stop the vehicle at a marked crosswalk or before entering the intersection. A driver also may see YIELD signs on expressway ramps. These signs may be posted when there is no extra lane where a driver may speed up to merge with expressway traffic. There is no regulatory sign associated with merging lanes, only advisory and warning signs. Late merge is not typically used due to operational concerns.



### Do Not Enter

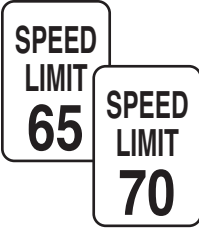
This sign is posted on one-way streets and other roadways where a driver is not allowed to enter. A driver may see this sign if attempting to enter an expressway ramp in the wrong direction.





### Speed Zone Ahead

This sign warns a driver there is a speed zone ahead. Drivers should be prepared to alter their current speed.



### Speed Limit

Some signs show maximum and minimum speed limits for all types of vehicles on freeways and controlled-access highways. Driving slower than the minimum speed limit is illegal, unless necessary for safety.



### Wrong Way

This sign tells drivers their vehicle is traveling in the wrong direction. A driver will see this sign on expressway ramps a short distance past the DO NOT ENTER sign. A driver also will see this sign if turning the wrong way into a one-way street, alley or driveway.



### No (Not Allowed)

Signs having a red circle with a red slash from the upper left to the lower right mean a particular action is not allowed. The picture within the circle shows what is not allowed.

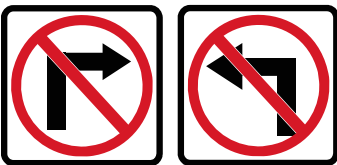


### No U-Turn

These signs are posted on divided highways or expressways. A driver may see one where there is an opening in the divided highway that leads to the other side. These openings are only for authorized vehicles, such as police cars, ambulances, snow plows, construction/maintenance equipment and other emergency vehicles. Other types of vehicles may not use this opening.

### No Right/Left Turn

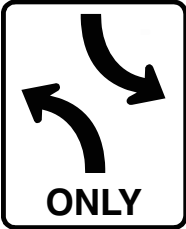
These signs indicate turns are not allowed in the direction shown by the arrow.





### One-Way

These signs are used on one-way streets or driveways. A driver must always go only in the direction of the arrow.



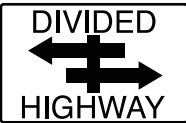
### Two-Way Left Turn Lanes

Either of these two signs can be used to indicate a two-way left turn lane in the center of a highway. Along with a sign, the two-way left turn lane is marked with yellow lines and white arrows.



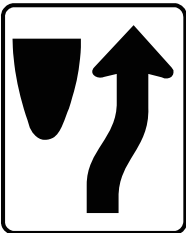
### No Turn on Red

This sign is used at some intersections. It tells a driver a right turn on a red light or a left turn on a red light at intersecting one-way streets is prohibited. It may also show a red circle instead of the word red.



### Approaching a Divided Highway

This sign is used on approaches to a divided highway. It informs a driver that a median separates both directions of traffic on the road the driver is going to turn onto or cross.



### Keep Right

This sign tells a driver where to drive when approaching traffic islands, medians or other obstructions in the middle of the roadway. A driver must drive to the side indicated by the arrow.



### Slower Traffic Keep Right

This sign is posted for those driving slower than the normal speed of traffic on some multilane highways. It tells the slow driver to drive in the right lane.



### Stop Here on Red

This sign is used when it is not clear where vehicles must stop at an intersection with traffic signals.



### Do Not Pass

This sign informs a driver to not pass other vehicles. It is posted on some two-lane roads where traffic goes in both directions. There will also be yellow "no passing" lines on the road.

### Pass with Care

This sign informs drivers that they have reached the end of the no-passing zone. The driver may pass now only when it is safe.



### Road Closed

This sign is used when the road is closed to all traffic. A driver may not continue on the road.



### Bike Lane

A bicycle lane is a designated traffic lane for bicyclists. These lanes are marked by a solid white line that becomes a dotted line ending before it reaches the corner. Bicycle lanes are sometimes painted a bright green color in order to increase visibility.

## Warning Signs

Warning signs alert a driver to conditions ahead. These signs are usually diamond-shaped and warn about road hazards, construction sites, schools or other situations that require special attention. While most warning signs are yellow, some communities may use fluorescent yellow-green pedestrian, bicycle and school signs. Construction and maintenance warning signs are orange.



### Pedestrian Crosswalk

This sign tells a driver there is a crosswalk. Crosswalks are not always located at intersections so a driver must watch both sides of the street for pedestrians. Pedestrian crosswalk signs may also be accompanied by a yellow flashing beacon located on the sign. This beacon helps to increase driver awareness of an approaching crosswalk and the potential presence of pedestrians in the crosswalk.

## Other Special Crossings

These signs alert a driver in advance of special areas where vehicles and pedestrians may be crossing.



## School Signs

These signs warn a driver of school areas and crossings. A driver should stay alert and watch for children. Adult school crossing guards, auxiliary police or police officers often supervise these street crossings when students are going to and from school. School safety patrol members may assist the crossing guards. A driver should slow down and stop when necessary.

The first two signs warn of school crossings ahead or of school buildings or grounds next to the roadway. The last two signs are posted at school crosswalks.



These two signs are used in areas where a reduced speed school zone has been established. The posted speed applies only on school days when children are present (usual school hours are from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., but hours may vary), where a potential hazard exists because of the children's close proximity to traffic, or when a light is flashing.

The use of wireless/cellphones is prohibited while driving in a posted school speed zone.

## Stop Ahead/Yield Ahead/Signal Ahead



Stop Ahead



Yield Ahead



Signal Ahead

These signs warn a driver of approaching traffic control signals. Although the traffic signal may not yet be visible, the traffic signs are close enough to require a driver to start slowing down. Advance warning signs also are used in high-speed areas because of the longer distance needed to slow down or stop.

## Intersections Ahead

These four signs warn a driver of intersections ahead where traffic may exist, or a right or left turn may be required. A sign naming the intersecting road also may be posted.



Crossroad



Side Road



"T" Intersection



"Y" Intersection

## Turns and Curves

Certain signs are posted before turns and curves. The shape of the arrow tells a driver what to expect. A small sign showing the maximum safe speed also may be posted below the arrow.



Right and Left Turns  
Coming



Road Curves to the  
Right and Left



Road Curves to the  
Right



Right Turn Ahead



Winding Road Ahead



Maximum Safe Speed on  
Curve or Turn



## Exit Ramp

These signs are posted at freeway and interstate exit ramps. This sign shows the maximum safe speed a vehicle can be driven on the ramp.



## Slippery Pavement

All roads are slippery and dangerous when wet. This sign warns of conditions that can cause a driver to lose control of a car. A driver should slow down when coming upon wet pavement because it takes longer to stop.



### **Downgrade**

This sign warns a driver of a dangerous hill. It may be very long or steep, or it may have sharp curves. Drivers should slow their speed before starting down the hill.



### **Narrow Bridge**

This sign warns a driver that an approaching bridge has a narrow roadway. A bridge width is generally 2 feet less than the width of the approach pavement.

### **Reduction in Lanes**

These signs are used on multi-lane highways to warn a driver of a reduction in the number of traffic lanes in the direction of travel. Reduction in lanes can be temporary, due to construction or maintenance activities, or permanent. Drivers should be prepared to change lanes or to allow other vehicles to merge into their lane. Drivers of all vehicles may need to adjust their speed and position to avoid a crash with another vehicle. During periods when the road is not congested, drivers should merge into the open lane as early as possible. During times of congestion, it is advised for drivers to use both lanes to advance to the lane reduction point and merge at that location, alternating turns. This is also known as the “zipper merge” as two sides merge into one like a zipper.



### **Road Narrows**

This sign warns a driver that a two-lane road suddenly narrows.



### **No Passing**

This sign is used on two-lane, two-way roads. It warns a driver not to pass. The sign is posted on the left side of the road at the beginning of a no passing zone.



### **Merging Lanes**

This sign tells a driver that two lanes of traffic going the same direction will soon merge into one lane. Drivers should be ready to either change lanes or allow other traffic to merge into their lane. Merge signs may appear on expressways just before expressway ramps. The driver on the expressway should slow down to let the driver on the ramp merge.



### **Change in Direction**

This sign warns a driver of a change in direction or narrowing of the road. A driver may find several of these signs on the outside of a sharp curve or on approaches to a narrow bridge.

### **Divided Highway**

Divided highways have a center strip that separates traffic going in opposite directions. The first sign is posted before a divided highway begins.

The second sign is posted just before the divided highway ends. A driver should be careful nearing the end of a divided highway.



### **Two-Way Roadway**

This sign informs drivers that they are leaving a divided roadway and approaching a two-way highway.



## **Construction and Maintenance Signs**

Construction and maintenance zone signs alert a driver to changing conditions on the roadway and help keep highway workers safe.

### **Workers Ahead**

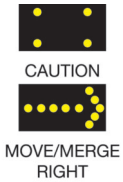
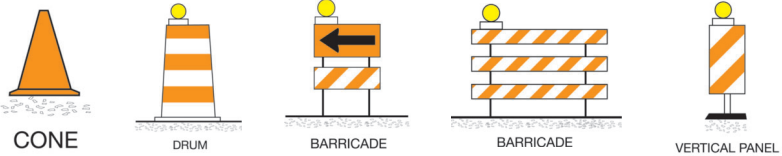
These signs are posted far enough ahead to give a driver time to adjust vehicle speed for any unusual conditions. When a driver sees these signs, workers may be working close to the traffic lane. Drivers should follow the signs and adjust vehicle speed to the posted

construction zone speed limit, stay alert and keep a safe distance between their vehicle and all traffic barriers.



**Warning Cones, Drums and Barricades**

These devices are used to protect a driver from dangerous locations by marking a path for the vehicle to follow in construction and maintenance zones. They also are used to warn motorists of an existing hazard.



**Warning Lights and Arrow Boards**

Warning lights help draw a driver’s attention to drums and barricades at night. Arrow boards warn the motorist of an upcoming lane closure, or caution when construction is ahead and the direction to merge or move.



**Flagger**

This sign warns there is a flagger ahead. A driver should use caution when approaching a flagger as the individual will be working close to traffic. A driver should slow down and be prepared to obey the signals of the flagger. A driver must stop if signaled to do so.

**Portable Changeable Message Signs**

Portable changeable message signs provide real-time information to help communicate with users the road conditions and to provide guidance. Messages in these devices may include slow or stopped traffic warnings, notice of lane or road closures, travel and delay time information, changes in alignment of the road, or changes in road user patterns. These may also be used to direct drivers to take alternate roads, take detours, or use both lanes to a merging point to increase roadway capacity. It is important for road users to follow the messages in these devices.



## Other Special Signs



### Slow-Moving Vehicle

A vehicle displaying this sign is moving slowly. A driver must slow down and may pass only when safe and legal to do so.



### Parking for Persons with Disabilities

Parking spaces with this sign are reserved for vehicles displaying Persons with Disabilities license plates, Disabled Veteran license plates and/or disabled parking placards.

## Guide Signs

Guide signs give drivers information about their location, the road being traveled on and how to get to a specific location. Most guide signs are rectangular; however, guide signs for county roads and route markers on freeways are different in shape. The type of information given determines the color of the sign.

### Route Markers

These signs are used alone or with smaller signs. They direct a driver to specific roads. Different routes have different markings. Examples of these types of signs include:



## — Chapter 9 Study Questions —

1. A merge sign means drivers should be prepared to change lanes or allow other traffic to come into their lane.  
 True     False
2. When approaching a stop sign that is not marked by a crosswalk, drivers should stop their vehicles before entering the intersection.  
 True     False
3. An orange sign means drivers should be alert, adjust their speed and be prepared to stop if necessary.  
 True     False
4. A driver approaching a vehicle with a slow moving vehicle sign should slow down and only pass when safe and legal to do so.  
 True     False
5. When approaching a railroad crossing sign, a driver should slow down, look and stop if necessary.  
 True     False
6. A diamond-shaped sign warns drivers of possible hazards.  
 True     False

# Chapter 10: Traffic Signals and Pavement Markings

Traffic signals and pavement markings must be obeyed unless a police or traffic control officer directs otherwise. A driver may never leave the roadway to avoid a traffic signal.

## Traffic Signals

Traffic lights at intersections usually have three colors — red, yellow and green — from top to bottom or from left to right. At some intersections, however, there may be a single red, yellow or green light. Some traffic lights are steady, some flash and some are arrows. When traffic control signals are not working, a driver must always treat the intersection as an all-way stop, by coming to a complete stop, unless directed otherwise by law enforcement. The driver must then look and yield the right of way before entering an intersection.



### Steady Lights

**Red Light** — The driver must stop at the marked stop line. If there is not a marked stop line, the driver must stop before entering the crosswalk. If there is no crosswalk, the driver must stop before entering the intersection. Vehicles are not allowed to go until the light is green and the intersection is clear. A driver may make a right turn at a red light unless there is a sign prohibiting it. A driver also may make a left turn at a red light when turning from a one-way street onto another one-way street that has traffic moving to the left. In both instances, a driver must come to a complete stop and yield the right of way to oncoming traffic and pedestrians before turning.

**Yellow Light** — The yellow light warns that the signal is changing from green to red. When the red light appears, a driver may not enter the intersection.

**Green Light** — A driver may go after yielding the right of way to any pedestrians and vehicles in the intersection or crosswalk.



### Flashing Lights

**Flashing Red** — A driver must stop, yield the right of way to traffic within the intersection or crosswalk and proceed when safe. This light is used at intersections when a stop sign alone is hard to see or where additional emphasis on the stop sign is needed. It also is used at railroad crossings to warn of approaching trains.



**Flashing Yellow** — A driver should proceed into the intersection with caution.

## Arrows



After yielding the right of way to traffic within the intersection or crosswalk, a driver may go in the direction the arrow is pointing.

**Red Arrow (constantly lit)** — The constantly lit red arrow means a driver cannot make the movement shown by the arrow until a green arrow appears. There are two exceptions. A driver may make a right turn at a red arrow. A driver also may make a left turn at a red arrow when turning from a one-way street onto another one-way street that has traffic moving to the left. In both instances, a driver must come to a complete stop and yield the right of way to oncoming traffic and pedestrians before proceeding.

**Yellow Arrow (constantly lit)** — The constantly lit yellow arrow means the green arrow is ending or that the light is about to turn red.

**Yellow Arrow (flashing)** — The flashing yellow arrow means a driver may turn in the direction the arrow is pointed after yielding the right of way to any pedestrians and vehicles in the intersection or crosswalk.

**Green Arrow** — When the arrow is pointed upward, a driver may go straight ahead only. When the arrow is pointed to the right, a driver may turn to the right. When the arrow is pointed to the left, a driver may turn to the left.

## Pedestrian Traffic Signals, Walk Lights and Crossings

Pedestrians must yield the right of way to drivers by obeying traffic signals, observing walk lights and using crosswalks.



- **Walk (walking person)** — Pedestrians facing the signal may cross the roadway in the direction of the signal.

- **Don't Walk (flashing orange upraised hand)** — Pedestrians may not start entering the roadway. A pedestrian who has partially completed crossing during the constantly lighted walk signal may continue to a sidewalk or safety island.

- **Don't Walk (constantly lit orange upraised hand)** — Pedestrians may not enter the roadway.

- **Yellow Light (constant upraised hand)** — Pedestrians may not cross unless directed by a pedestrian control sign or police officer.

## Lane Signals



Special lights sometimes are used over each lane on highways and expressways. They are used most often to change the flow of traffic during certain hours of the day.

**Red "X"** — A driver must never drive in this lane when the red "X" is displayed.

**Yellow "X"** — This indicates the lane signal is going to change to red. A driver should leave this lane safely before the red "X" appears.

**Flashing Yellow "Arrow"** — This indicates the lane may be used for approaching and making a left turn.

**Green Arrow** — This indicates lanes may be used, but all other signs and signals must be obeyed.

# Pavement Markings

## Edge Lines

Solid lines along the side of the road tell a driver where the edge of the pavement is located. Solid white lines are used on the right of the roadway edge. Solid yellow lines are used on the left edge of divided streets or roadways.

## White Lane Lines

White lane lines separate lanes of traffic moving in the same direction.

- **Broken white lines** separate lanes of traffic moving in the same direction. A driver may only cross the line when changing lanes or turning.
- **Solid white lines** separate lanes of traffic moving in the same direction. Crossing a solid white line requires special care and is discouraged.
- **Solid double white lines** separate lanes of traffic moving in the same direction. Crossing a double solid white line is prohibited.



## Yellow Center Lines

Yellow center lines separate lanes of traffic moving in opposite directions.

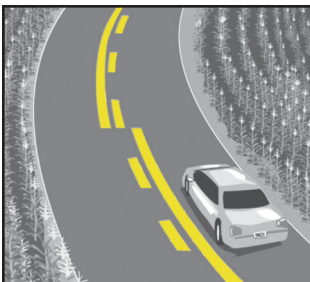
- **Broken yellow lines** separate single lanes of traffic moving in opposite directions. A driver is allowed to pass.
- **Solid double yellow lines** are used where traffic is moving in opposite directions. Two solid lines mark the center of the roadway and may be crossed to make a left turn to or from an alley, private road, driveway or street.



## Yellow No Passing Lines

No passing lines are solid yellow lines on roads where traffic moves in opposite directions. The lines indicate zones where passing is not allowed.

When the solid yellow line is on the driver's side of the center line, the driver may cross it to finish the passing maneuver already started before the beginning of the no passing zone. A driver may cross it to make a left turn into or from an alley, private road or driveway.

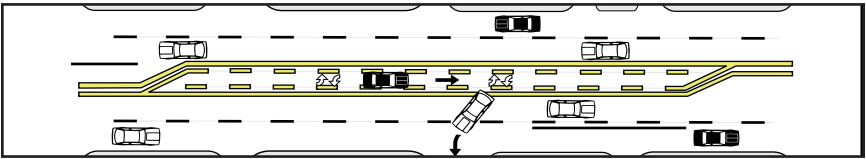




When there is a solid and a broken yellow line separating two lanes of traffic moving in opposite directions, a driver may pass only when the broken yellow line is nearest the driver's lane.

### Two-Way Left Turn Lanes

Two-way left turn lanes are marked with yellow lines and white arrows. A left turn may not be made from any other lane when a turn lane is provided. A vehicle may not be driven in the lane except when preparing for or making a left turn from or into the roadway or when preparing for or making a U-turn when permitted by law.



### White Stop Line

A white stop line is painted across a lane at an intersection. The line is usually 4 feet before the crosswalk in an urban area. It shows where a driver must stop the vehicle for a stop sign or red light. A driver must stop the vehicle before any part of it crosses the line.

### White Crosswalk Lines

White crosswalk lines are painted across the entire width of the pavement. Sometimes the inside area is marked with white diagonal lines for added visibility. Pedestrians in crosswalks have the right of way over vehicles. Crosswalks are sometimes in the middle of the block and a pedestrian crossing sign is located at the white lines.

### Other Markings

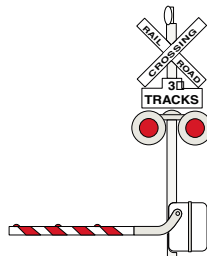
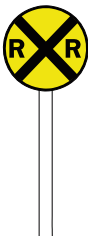
- Yellow or white diagonal stripes are used to mark fixed obstructions.
- Solid white or yellow lines are sometimes used to channel traffic around a hazard.
- Curb markings, fire lanes and pavement markings may be designated as "No Parking" areas by local authorities.

## Railroad Crossings

Railroad crossings are marked with one or more of the following special warning devices:

- **Round Advance Warning Sign** — A yellow sign with a black “X” and the letters “RR” means a highway-railway crossing is ahead. The sign may be placed up to 750 feet in advance of the railroad crossing.
- **Pavement Markings** — A solid yellow line in advance of the crossing means no passing. White stop lines on each side of the track show motorists where to stop when a train is approaching. These markings also indicate a highway-railway crossing is ahead.
- **Railroad Crossbuck Sign** — If a railroad crossing has more than one track, the number of tracks is on the sign below the crossbuck. This is considered a yield sign and a driver must yield the right of way to any oncoming trains and railroad equipment.
- **Flashing Light Signals** — When lights begin to flash, a driver must always stop until the train has passed and the lights have stopped flashing.
- **Gates** — A driver must remain stopped until the lowered gates are raised and lights are no longer flashing. Drivers should not attempt to beat crossing gates as they are lowering or go around lowered gates.

Tracks equipped with an automated railroad crossing enforcement system may record an image of the vehicle license plate number, time, date and location of any violation. Drivers are subject to fines and possible suspension of their driving privileges for violations.



### — Chapter 10 Study Questions —

1. What should a driver do when approaching a traffic control signal that is not in operation?
  - a. Come to a full stop and yield the right of way before entering the intersection.
  - b. If the intersection is clear, the driver does not need to stop.
  - c. Drive quickly through the intersection to get out of the way of other vehicles.
2. If a traffic light shows both a red light and a green arrow, a driver may not turn in the direction of the arrow until the red light has changed.  
 True     False

3. Drivers may pass on a two-lane roadway marked with a single solid yellow line on their side of the center line.  
 True     False
4. A railroad crossbuck sign should be treated the same as a yield sign.  
 True     False
5. A driver approaching a flashing red light must stop, yield the right of way to traffic and proceed when safe.  
 True     False
6. Drivers are allowed to leave the roadway to avoid a traffic signal.  
 True     False



# Chapter 11: Safe Driving Tips

Driving is a privilege and a responsibility. A driver must obey all traffic laws and be prepared to react to other drivers and driving conditions.

## Drive Defensively



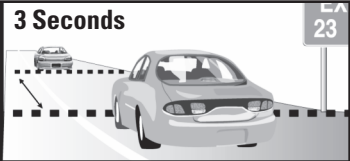
A driver should always be prepared to react to another driver. A driver should not assume to know what the other driver is going to do. If unable to avoid a crash, a driver should remain calm and try to choose the least dangerous situation.

## Following Distances

Following a vehicle too closely, or tailgating, is the cause of most rear-end crashes. A driver should use the three-second rule to determine a safe following distance. To use the three-second rule, a driver should select a fixed object on the road ahead such as a sign, tree or overpass. When the vehicle in front passes the object, a driver should count “one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two, etc.” The driver’s vehicle should not reach the object before the count of one-thousand-three. If this occurs, the driver is following too close. The three-second rule also applies to vehicle speed when on a good road and during good weather conditions.

If the road and/or weather conditions are not good, a driver should increase the following distance even more.

A driver being tailgated should move to another lane or slowly pull off the road and allow the vehicle to pass.

		
Vehicle Speed	Approximate Feet Vehicle Will Travel in 1 Second	Three-Second Rule Distance
25 mph	37 feet	111 feet back
35 mph	52 feet	156 feet back
45 mph	66 feet	198 feet back
55 mph	81 feet	243 feet back
65 mph	96 feet	288 feet back
70 mph	103 feet	309 feet back

## Vehicle Speed

Driving too fast or too slowly can create a dangerous situation. Regardless of the posted speed limit, weather and traffic conditions may make it necessary to drive more slowly. A driver should adjust a vehicle's speed for the conditions and to match the flow of traffic, as long as it does not surpass the maximum posted speed limit. Doubling a vehicle's speed quadruples the vehicle's stopping distance.

Drivers should consider the following when deciding vehicle speed:

- How quickly they can react physically and mentally.
- Type and condition of the roadway.
- The size of the tires — large, wide tires with good tread will stop a vehicle faster than small, narrow tires with little tread.
- The condition of the brakes — newer brakes stop a vehicle more quickly than older, worn brakes.
- The direction of the wind and how fast it is blowing — a strong tail wind can make it very difficult to stop.
- The type of vehicle — vehicle design, weight distribution, suspension and shock absorbers all play a role in how quickly a vehicle can stop.

## Drowsy Driving

Drowsy driving can impair the ability to drive safely, even if the driver does not fall asleep. A driver often cannot react in time to apply brakes or steer away from a potential crash. A driver should be properly rested and avoid drowsiness by stopping frequently when taking long trips. Exercising the eyes by reading road signs or shifting the focus to different parts of the roadway is also helpful.

## Weather Conditions

Weather can create a driving hazard. Special care must be taken in fog, rain, high winds and winter driving conditions.

### Fog

While it is not advisable, if operating a car in foggy conditions, a driver should take the following precautions:

- Turn off the cruise control and increase the following distance.
- Slow down. If a driver sees headlights or taillights, the vehicle should slow down even more. A driver may be driving in the center of the roadway or may be stopped or barely moving.
- Drive with the headlights set on dim or use fog lights.
- Do not overdrive the headlights. A driver should stay within the limits of vision in case it is necessary to stop suddenly. If the fog is too dense, a driver should pull off the roadway and stop. Vehicles should not drive at 5-10 mph.
- Use turn signals long before making a turn.
- Brake early when approaching a stop to warn other drivers.

## **Rain**

Illinois law requires a driver to use the vehicle's headlights when operating the windshield wipers. When rain begins to fall lightly, water, dust, oil and leaves cause the roadway to become slippery. A driver should take the following precautions when driving in rain:

- Turn off the cruise control and increase the following distance.
- Take special precautions on curves, turns and while braking.
- Slow down to avoid hydroplaning. If a vehicle skids while hydroplaning, the driver should try to regain control of the vehicle. If that is not possible, the driver should release the accelerator and ride out the skid.

If a driver comes across a roadway or viaduct that has been flooded due to heavy rain, do not drive through the flooded area. It is not possible for a driver to determine the depth or current of the water. The driver should turn the vehicle around and find another route.

## **High Winds**

Wind can be a difficult problem, especially for drivers of trucks, recreational vehicles, campers and trailers-in-tow. A driver should take the following precautions:

- Reduce speed and make steering corrections when going from a protected area to an open area and when meeting large vehicles such as trucks and buses.
- Heavy rain or sleet often accompanies high winds. Be alert to wet or slippery areas and plan for those conditions.
- The Illinois Tollway System bans the hauling of house trailers in high winds.

## **Winter Driving**

Winter is the most difficult driving season due to possible ice, snow, lower temperatures and fewer daylight hours. A driver should:

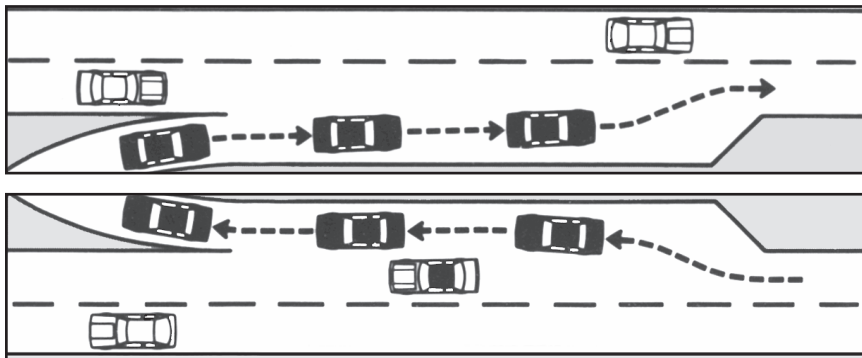
- Drive slower and increase the following distance. Roadway conditions may vary depending upon the sun, shade or roadway surface.
- Turn off the cruise control if the pavement is wet, icy or snowy.
- Remove all snow and ice from the vehicle, clear all windows and do not start driving until the windshield is defrosted and clear. A driver should be sure to have nonfreezing windshield washer liquid and that the vehicle's headlights and taillights are visible.
- Be sure the vehicle is maintained properly. Lights, brakes, windshield wipers, defrosters, radiator and other parts should be in good working order.
- Use snow tires and/or chains (where allowed). Snow tires give extra traction and chains increase safety on snow or ice covered roads. Neither snow tires nor chains allow vehicles to drive on bad roads at normal speeds.
- Gently apply brakes in slow, steady strokes. This helps the driver determine how much vehicle traction is available. A driver should begin braking early when coming to an intersection or stop.
- Approach bridges, shaded spots, overpasses and turns slowly. They may remain icy after the rest of the roadway is clear and dry.
- Plan ahead for winter driving. Carrying a blanket, food and other survival equipment, such as a shovel, in the vehicle can be helpful if stranded. If drivers do become stranded, they

should remain with the vehicle running the engine only for brief times and opening the window to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. If possible, the driver should make sure the vehicle's tailpipe is free of snow and debris.

## Special Driving Situations and Hazards

### Expressway Driving

Expressways, interstates, toll roads, turnpikes and freeways are fast, multiple-lane roads with maximum speed limits of 55, 65 or 70 mph. A driver should be alert when driving on expressways because speed and traffic volume are major concerns.



The following are tips for safe driving on expressways:

- When entering an expressway, a driver will usually find a speed-change lane. This lane allows a driver to gain the speed necessary before merging. A driver should signal and look for an opening in the traffic, match traffic speed and merge with traffic when safe.
- A driver should check the rearview and side mirrors before changing lanes.
- A driver should use turn signals when making lane changes.
- A driver should not follow too closely and allow plenty of distance between vehicles.
- The right lane is for slower traffic. The left lane is for faster traffic and for passing. A driver should not drive continuously in the left lane.
- A driver should not stop on the expressway and should pull off the road if experiencing a problem. A driver should lift the vehicle's hood and turn on the vehicle's hazard flashers. A driver should never walk along the expressway.
- Freeway exits may be on the right or left. A driver should be sure the vehicle is in the correct exit and speed-change lanes and use turn signals to indicate the intent to exit. When approaching the exit, a driver should slow down to make the exit in the speed-change lane.
- If an exit is missed, a driver should go to the next available exit. Backing up on an expressway is against the law.
- If lanes are reduced due to construction or maintenance, drivers should merge early into the open lane, if the road is not heavily congested. However, in dense, slow moving traffic, it is advised for drivers to use both lanes to advance to the lane reduction point and merge at that location, alternating turns.

## Night Driving

Night driving is difficult because things may appear differently than in daylight. Glare from lights may interfere with vision.

A driver should:

- Never overdrive a vehicle's headlights and always keep them clean and aimed properly. Lights should be used from sunset to sunrise. Bright lights must be dimmed 500 feet before meeting an oncoming vehicle or 300 feet before passing a vehicle.
- Dim the dashboard lights, use the sun visor to avoid glare and avoid using any other light inside the vehicle.
- Use edge lines and center lines of the roadway as guides.
- Not stop on the roadway. If a driver must stop, use of a red warning light is recommended.

## Rural Intersections

Depending on the time of the year, it may be difficult to see other drivers. Some rural intersections may be marked with warning signs (stop, yield, etc.), while others may not. When approaching any rural intersection, a driver should slow down and look both ways before entering the intersection.

## Curves

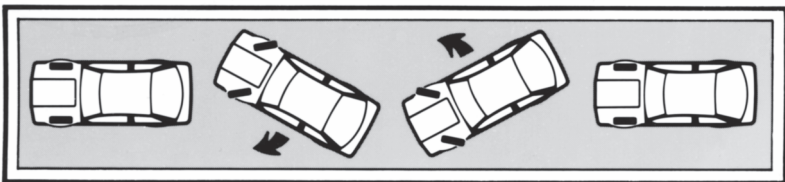
A driver should slow down before entering a curve. A driver should not brake suddenly as this may cause skidding or locked wheels and should never drive over the center line.

## Head-on Approaches

When a vehicle is approaching a driver head-on in the same lane, a driver should immediately slow down, pull over to the right and sound the horn.

## Skidding

Skidding occurs when tires lose traction. If a driver's vehicle starts to skid, a driver should ease off the gas pedal or brakes, steer into the direction of the skid until regaining traction and then straighten the vehicle.



## Driving Off the Pavement

If a vehicle's wheels drift off the pavement onto the shoulder, drivers should grip the wheel firmly, ease their foot off the gas pedal and brake gently. After checking for traffic behind the vehicle, the driver should gently steer the vehicle back onto the pavement. A driver should not jerk the wheel to correct the steering. This may cause the vehicle to drive into oncoming traffic.

## Fire

If smoke appears, a driver should pull off the road. The engine should be turned off and the driver should move away from the vehicle and call 9-1-1. Vehicle fires can be very dangerous. Drivers should not fight the fire on their own.

## Water Crashes

If a vehicle runs off the roadway into water but does not sink right away, the driver should try to escape through a window. Because of differences in water pressure, a driver or passengers may not be able to open the car doors. If the vehicle does sink, persons in the vehicle should move to the back seat area where an air pocket usually forms. If possible, persons trapped should take a deep breath and exit from a rear window.

## Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon monoxide is deadly. It is found in fumes produced any time a vehicle burns fuel. The most common symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain and confusion. Carbon monoxide symptoms are often described as “flu-like.” People who fall asleep in their vehicles or leave them running in their garage can die before they have symptoms. Everyone in the vehicle is at risk, particularly older people, infants and individuals with cardiac, pulmonary or blood disorders.

It is recommended a driver or vehicle owner have a mechanic check the vehicle exhaust system every year and never run a vehicle inside a garage that is attached to a house.

## Electricity

If a driver is in a crash that results in power lines falling on the vehicle, the danger of electrical shock exists. The driver and passengers should remain in the vehicle until help arrives. If fire is an immediate danger, the people in the vehicle must jump clear of it. When jumping clear, individuals should not allow any part of their body to touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time.

## Explosive Fire Hazard

A driver should always shut off a vehicle’s engine when refueling and should never smoke around gas pumps. For safety purposes, a driver should remain with the pump while refueling.

# Equipment Failure

Crashes often happen when equipment fails. Equipment failures may include:

- **Blowouts** — A thumping sound may be a warning of a blowout. If this happens, a driver should ease their foot off the gas pedal and keep a firm grasp on the steering wheel, pull safely off the roadway and check the tires. A driver should not brake suddenly.
- **Loss of a Wheel or Tire** — A driver should react the same as a tire blowout.
- **Steering Failure** — If drivers suddenly have no control of the steering wheel, they should ease off the gas pedal, turn on the vehicle’s emergency flashers and allow the vehicle to come to a slow stop. The driver should brake very gently to prevent the vehicle

from spinning. If the vehicle has power steering or a locking steering wheel, drivers should not turn off the ignition because the vehicle will lose either the power steering or their ability to steer.

- **Brake Failure** — If the brake pedal suddenly sinks to the floor, a driver should pump it to build pressure. If that does not work, the driver should use the emergency or parking brake. To slow down, a driver should shift the vehicle into a lower gear.
- **Headlight Failure** — If the headlights fail suddenly, a driver should try using the vehicle's emergency flashers, parking lights and/or turn signals and pull off the road. If the lights begin to dim, the driver should drive to a service station or pull off the road and seek help.
- **Stuck Gas Pedal** — If the gas pedal becomes stuck, drivers should hook their toe under it to free it. If it does not become free, the driver should shift the vehicle into neutral and brake gently to slow down.
- **Blocked Vision** — If the driver's vision becomes blocked, he/she should roll down the side window to see, turn on the vehicle's emergency flashers and pull the vehicle off the road.

## Aggressive Driving

Aggressive driving is the operation of a motor vehicle in a manner that endangers or is likely to endanger persons or property. A driver doing any of the following may be committing acts of aggressive driving and pose the risk of a crash:

- Speeding.
- Running red lights and stop signs.
- Tailgating.
- Passing on the shoulder of the road.
- Cutting off another vehicle.
- Slamming on brakes in front of a tailgater.
- Improper hand or facial gestures at other drivers.
- Yelling.
- Repeatedly honking the horn.
- Repeatedly flashing the headlights.

If drivers encounter an angry or aggressive motorist, they should:

- Not retaliate or in any way engage the other driver.
- Not make eye contact.
- Keep their vehicle doors locked and windows up.
- Keep enough space between themselves and the vehicle in front to pull out from behind.
- Not underestimate a driver's potential for aggression.

## — Chapter 11 Study Questions —

1. The road surface of a bridge may be dangerous in winter because it may remain icy after the rest of the roadway is clear.  
 True     False
2. If driving in fog, a driver should turn on the high-beam headlights to increase the field of vision.  
 True     False
3. Most rear-end crashes are caused by the vehicle in back following too closely.  
 True     False
4. The three-second rule helps the driver determine a safe following distance.  
 True     False
5. If a vehicle starts to skid on water (hydroplane), the driver should quickly apply the brakes.  
 True     False
6. If the front right wheel of a vehicle runs off the pavement, a driver should ease off the accelerator, brake gently and gently steer back onto the pavement.  
 True     False
7. Drivers who become stranded in blizzard conditions should remain in their vehicles.  
 True     False
8. When experiencing a tire blowout, the driver should apply the brakes quickly and pull off the roadway to check the tire.  
 True     False
9. If a vehicle starts to skid, the driver should ease off the gas pedal or brakes and steer in the opposite direction of the skid.  
 True     False
10. Illinois law requires that headlights be on when atmospheric conditions require the use of windshield wipers.  
 True     False



# Chapter 12: Equipment For Safe Driving

No matter how well individuals drive, they are not safe unless their vehicle is properly equipped and in good working condition. It is illegal to drive a vehicle that may be a hazard to any person or property.

## Required Equipment

A motor vehicle must have the following working equipment:

- **Brakes** — Vehicles must have two brake systems and brakes on all wheels. The foot brake must be strong enough to stop a vehicle traveling at a speed of 20 mph within 30 feet. The emergency or parking brake must be strong enough to stop the vehicle in 55 feet at the same speed. The emergency brake also must be able to hold the vehicle on a grade or hill. Motor-driven cycles need only one brake.
- **Headlights** — Vehicles must have two headlights and they must be on from sunset to sunrise and be used in times when rain, snow, fog or other conditions require the use of windshield wipers. They also should be used when objects 1,000 feet away cannot be seen. Bright lights must be dimmed 500 feet before meeting an oncoming vehicle or 300 feet before passing a vehicle. Motorcycles and mopeds require a headlight, which must show objects 500 feet ahead, and be turned on whenever the vehicle is driven. No tinted or smoked lenses are allowed on any vehicles.
- **Taillights** — Vehicles must have two red lights visible for 500 feet from behind. Only one taillight is needed for mopeds and motorcycles.
- **Turn signals** — Vehicles, except motorcycles, trailers and semitrailers, must have right and left-turn signals on the front and rear visible from 300 feet.
- **License plate light** — Vehicles must have a white light making the license plate readable from 50 feet away and must be on when headlights are on.
- **Parking lights** — Front and rear parking lights are required for any vehicle stopped on a highway at night. Some local communities may allow unlighted night parking on streets.
- **Safety Belts** — Passenger vehicles must have two sets of safety belts in the front seat. Vehicles manufactured in 1965 or after may not be sold or operated in Illinois without safety belts.
- **Mirrors** — One rearview mirror is required so the driver can see at least 200 feet behind the car.
- **Windows** — All window glass must be approved safety glass. The windshield must be free of snow, ice, moisture and any defects that distort vision. All glass must be free of obstructions between the driver and front or rear windows. Tinted windows are not allowed on the front windshield. A 6-inch strip of tinting is allowed along the entire length at the top of the front windshield.
- **Wipers** — Wipers must operate properly to clear ice, snow and moisture.
- **Horn** — Vehicles must have a horn that can be heard from 200 feet. Sirens, whistles and bells are allowed only on authorized emergency vehicles.
- **Muffler** — A muffler must be on the exhaust system to prevent excessive noise and smoke. Cutouts, bypasses and changes to the system to increase noise are illegal.
- **Bumpers** — Vehicles weighing 9,000 pounds or less and all recreational vehicles must have a front and rear bumper. It is illegal to alter the suspension system of a vehicle to

lift the body from the chassis frame in excess of 3 inches. The horizontal line from the front to the rear may not vary over 3 inches.

## Restricted Equipment

- **Projecting Loads** — Loads extending 4 feet or more to the rear of a vehicle must be marked with a red flag during the day. At night or when visibility is poor, the vehicle must have a red light visible for 500 feet.
- **Back-up lights** — Vehicles may have one or more backup lights which shall emit a white or amber light without glare; however, they may not be on when the vehicle is moving forward.
- **Spotlights** — Only one spotlight is allowed on a vehicle. When approaching another vehicle, it must be directed neither to the left nor more than 100 feet ahead. A vehicle may not have more than four 300 candlepower lights burning.
- **Flashing or moving lights** — Flashing or moving lights other than turn signals or hazard indicators are prohibited, except for police or designated emergency vehicles.
- **Red lights** — Red lights visible from the front are prohibited, except for police or designated emergency vehicles.
- **Running board lights** — Limited to one on each side and must be non-glare white or amber lights.
- **Cowl or fender lamps** — Only two lights are allowed and must be non-glare, white or amber lights.
- **Studded Tires** — Pneumatic tires with metal studs are illegal except for vehicles used by mail carriers in rural areas between November 15 and April 1; vehicles displaying Persons with Disabilities or Disabled Veteran plates between November 15 and April 1 (owners must live on a county or township road in an unincorporated area); agricultural tractors or traction engines; agricultural machinery, including wagons, being used for agricultural towing purposes; or road-building machinery operated at a speed of less than 10 mph.
- **Televisions or Video** — Televisions or video recording monitors that can be seen from the driver's seat are prohibited while the vehicle is in motion. Watching or streaming a live video on a cellphone is a violation of Illinois law.
- **Antique Vehicles** — Special rules for lamps, brakes, lights (head, tail and stop lights) and turn signals apply to vehicles more than 25 years old. For more information, call the Secretary of State's office at 800-252-8980 or visit [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com).
- **Radar Jamming Device** — Possession and use of radar jamming devices is prohibited in all vehicles.

## — Chapter 12 Study Questions —

1. Within how many feet is a driver required to dim the headlights before meeting another vehicle?
  - a. 250 feet
  - b. 400 feet
  - c. 500 feet
2. Headlights must be lighted from sunset to sunrise.  
 True     False

3. A car must have a horn that can be heard from a distance of 200 feet.  
 True     False
4. Tinted windows are not allowed on the front windshield of a vehicle.  
 True     False
5. TVs and video recording monitors that can be seen from the driver's seat are permitted when the vehicle is in motion.  
 True     False
6. Turn signals must be visible for 300 feet.  
 True     False

# Chapter 13: Owning a Vehicle

## Purchasing a Vehicle

When an individual purchases a vehicle in Illinois, certain laws and responsibilities must be followed.

### Purchasing from a Dealer

A dealer must follow certain laws when selling a new or used vehicle. Within 20 days of purchase, a dealer must send the following to the Secretary of State's office:

- Application for Vehicle Transaction(s).
- Properly signed Certificate of Title or Certificate of Origin.
- Separate payments for title/license plate fees and sales tax on the vehicle. Sales tax varies depending on the city or county where the vehicle is purchased.

### Purchasing from a Private Owner

If a vehicle is purchased or obtained from someone other than a dealer, within 20 days of ownership the Secretary of State's office must receive the following:

- Application for Vehicle Transaction(s).
- Properly signed Certificate of Title in the seller's name.
- Payment of title/license plate fees.
- Payment of Vehicle Use Tax. If the selling price is less than \$15,000, the tax is based on the model year of the vehicle. If the selling price is \$15,000 or more, the tax is based on the selling price of the vehicle. A RUT-50 tax form must be submitted along with the correct tax payment to Illinois Department of Revenue.

### Purchasing Out of State

If a vehicle is purchased out of state, the following items must be sent to the Secretary of State's office to obtain a Certificate of Title and license plates:

- Application for Vehicle Transaction(s).
- Payment of title/license plate fees. The amount is shown on the application.
- Certificate of Origin signed by the dealer if the vehicle is new, or a properly assigned Certificate of Title if the vehicle is used. For both new and used vehicles, the owner also must have a Bill of Sale.
- Recent vehicle registration ID card if the owner is transferring license plates.
- Payment of sales or Vehicle Use Tax.

## Vehicle Registration and Title

When a new owner registers a vehicle, he/she is providing the state with a record of that vehicle. Registration allows the owner to legally use the vehicle on Illinois roadways. To register a vehicle in Illinois, the owner must have an Illinois Certificate of Title. This document proves ownership. All vehicles and mobile homes must have a Certificate of Title whether or not they are registered.

Registration fees must be paid annually. A \$20 late fee is assessed on registrations renewed more than one month past the expiration date. Vanity/personalized plates and some other plate categories carry additional fees in addition to the following fees:

Passenger vehicle and B-truck (8,000 pounds or less) .....	\$151
Motorcycle .....	\$41
Autocycle .....	\$71
Replacement plate (1) .....	\$6
Replacement plates (2) .....	\$9
Replacement sticker .....	\$20

Fees are subject to legislative change. For up-to-date fee information, visit [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com).

When the owner(s) receive the license plates/sticker, they also receive a vehicle registration ID card that must be carried in the vehicle or with the owner when driving.

## **License Plate Requirements**

Illinois law requires all passenger vehicles, trucks and vans to display two plates, one on the front and one on the rear. License plate frames should not cover any of the information on the license plates. License plates covers are not allowed.

Motorcycles, mopeds, trailers, semitrailers and buses registered under apportionment provisions must display one license plate on the rear of the vehicle.

Truck-tractors and apportioned straight trucks must have one license plate on the front of the vehicle.

When a vehicle is sold, the license plates should be removed and kept by the seller. In Illinois, license plates remain with the owner, not the vehicle.

## **Temporary Registration Permit**

When owner(s) apply for registration for their vehicle, they may be issued a Temporary Registration Permit (TRP). This permit must be displayed in the same place and manner as a rear license plate. The TRP is valid for 90 days from the issuance date, although it may be reissued if the license plates do not arrive within 90 days. Once the owner(s) receive the license plates, the TRP should be removed and replaced with the permanent license plates. For the vehicle owner's protection, the permit should be destroyed and discarded upon removal. TRPs are available through Illinois licensed dealers, licensed remittance agencies, currency exchanges and Secretary of State facilities.

## **License Plate Renewal**

As a courtesy, about 60 days before a vehicle registration expires, owner(s) may receive a reminder postcard, an email and/or renewal notice from the Secretary of State's office.

Owner(s) may renew online at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com), by mail, by visiting a Secretary of State facility, or by calling the toll-free number on the postcard and/or renewal notice. Owner(s) also may renew at certain banks, (savings and loans), currency exchanges, credit unions and remittance agencies.

Owner(s) are encouraged to immediately affix the renewal sticker to the upper right side of the rear license plate. If the owner does not immediately display the renewal sticker and the current sticker has expired, law enforcement may stop the vehicle and issue a ticket.

Illinois law allows motorists to drive without an up-to-date vehicle renewal sticker displayed on their license plate provided they have a receipt in their vehicle from the Secretary of State proving they purchased a sticker online before expiration, but have not yet received it. The printed receipt is only valid as proof of registration for 30 days from the expiration of the registration sticker currently displayed on the license plate.

### **Registration Renewal for Veterans**

Members of the U.S. Armed Forces, serving in active duty or as a reservist, who can show proof of service in a combat mission, shall have their standard vehicle registration fee waived for the renewal period immediately following their return to the United States. Proof must be shown at the time of registration renewal.

Vehicle owner(s) who are a member of the U.S. Armed Forces serving in a non-combat capacity, a civilian employee of the Armed Forces or an employee of the U.S. Department of Defense serving outside the United States but are a legal resident of Illinois have 45 days from their date of return to obtain or renew the vehicle registration.

## **Special License Plates**

Personalized and vanity license plates are available for passenger vehicles, second division vehicles weighing 8,000 pounds or less, motorcycles, vehicles operated by persons with disabilities, recreational vehicles, recreational trailers and antique vehicles. Applicants should allow at least 45 days from the time the order is placed to receive their license plates.

## **Reduced-fee License Plates**

Senior citizens and persons with disabilities who qualify for the Benefit Access Program (formerly known as Circuit Breaker) tax relief through the Illinois Department on Aging are eligible for reduced license plate fees for passenger (standard license plates and specialty license plates) and recreational vehicles. One discount per year is allowed. For more information, please call the Illinois Department on Aging at 800-252-8966 or 888-206-1327 (TTY).

## **Mandatory Insurance**

All vehicles operated in Illinois must be covered by liability insurance, which covers injuries or damages to other persons or their property caused by a vehicle crash. Vehicle owner(s) are required to provide insurance information at the time of registration renewal. Once the vehicle owner(s) signs the registration or renewal application, they affirm that the vehicle is properly insured. Some vehicle classes are required to carry higher liability coverage under other laws. The following are minimum liability insurance limits in Illinois:

- \$25,000 for injury or death of one person in a crash.
- \$50,000 for injury or death of more than one person in a crash.
- \$20,000 for damage to property of another person.

Evidence of liability coverage must be carried by the motorist or in the vehicle and shown to law enforcement officers upon request. Insurance companies must issue Illinois insurance cards to policyholders or provide an insurance card that can be displayed on the driver's cellphone or other electronic device. Vehicle owner(s) should contact their insurance agent or company if they lose their insurance card or the company fails to send one. Vehicle owners(s) should carry some other form to prove insurance coverage, such as an insurance binder, the current policy declarations page, a certificate of insurance or the last insurance payment receipt, until they receive their new card.

Enforcement of the law is managed through random computer checks by the Secretary of State's office and the issuance of traffic tickets. In addition, vehicle owner(s) must provide proof of insurance to the Secretary of State's office or the remitter when renewing their license plates. This proof of insurance can be in a paper or electronic format. Failure to carry the required insurance will result in fines, the inability to renew the vehicle registration, suspension of driving privileges and suspension of the vehicle registration until proof of insurance is obtained. Providing false information to the Secretary of State's office or a remitter for the purpose of renewing the vehicle registration may result in criminal charges and a fine. Vehicle owner(s) who have trouble obtaining insurance should contact the Illinois Automobile Insurance Plan for assistance.

## **Emissions Testing**

In compliance with the Clean Air Act, certain vehicles in various areas of Illinois must pass an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) emissions test in order for the Secretary of State's office to renew the vehicle's registration. Notice is provided to owners of the scheduled test month and year for their vehicles. A vehicle emissions test is required in the following counties: all of Cook, DuPage and Lake, and parts of Kane, Kendall, McHenry, Will, Madison, Monroe and St. Clair. Vehicle owners who move from the area in which testing is required must notify the Secretary of State. For more information, please call the Illinois Air Team at 844-258-9071 or visit the Illinois Air Team website at [www.illinoisairteam.com](http://www.illinoisairteam.com).

## License Plates and Parking Placards for Persons with Disabilities

### License Plates

Illinois residents with a permanent disability may obtain Persons with Disabilities License Plates for vehicles titled in their name. An immediate family member residing in the same household may obtain two sets of plates if the qualifying person with disabilities does not own a vehicle and must rely on someone else for transportation. Corporations, school districts, limited liability companies, nursing homes, convalescent homes and special education cooperatives transporting eligible persons may obtain these plates as well. These plates DO NOT exempt the authorized holder from parking meter fees and time limitations at parking meters.

### Parking Placards

Disability parking placards may be issued to any Illinois resident with a physician-certified disability. They may only be used in a vehicle if the disabled person is present and entering or exiting the vehicle while parked at a designated disabled parking space. The four types of disability parking placards are:

- **Meter-Exempt Permanent** — This placard is issued to persons with permanent disabilities that significantly impair their ability to access a parking meter. There are specific types of disabilities that meet this qualification. The placard allows the authorized holder to park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities, such as a mall, grocery or retail store, and exempts the holder from parking meter fees and time limitations at meters exceeding a 30-minute time limit. Placards expire on the last day of the holder's birth month in 2022.
- **Permanent** — This placard is issued to persons with other types of permanent disabilities. The placard allows the authorized holder to park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities such as a mall, grocery or retail store. The placard DOES NOT exempt the holder from parking meter fees and time limitations. Placards expire on the last day of the holder's birth month in 2022.
- **Temporary** — This placard is issued to persons with a temporary disability. The placard is valid for the length of time indicated by the certifying physician, not to exceed six months if issued by the Secretary of State and 90 days if issued by a local municipality. The placard DOES NOT exempt the authorized holder from parking meter fees and time limitations.
- **Organization** — This placard is issued to organizations that offer free transportation to persons with disabilities. The placard allows the authorized holder to park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities when transporting persons with disabilities. The placard DOES NOT exempt the holder from parking meter fees and time limitations. Placards expire on April 30, 2022. For more information on any of the items discussed in this chapter, visit [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com) or call 800-252-8980.



# Answers to Study Questions

## Chapter 3

1. False (18)
2. True (19)
3. True (19)
4. True (16)
5. False (19)
6. True (16)

## Chapter 4

1. True (27)
2. True (26)
3. b (26)
4. True (32-33)
5. True (25)
6. a (33)
7. False (28)
8. True (26)
9. True (31)
10. False (34)
11. c (30)
12. False (26)
13. b (25)
14. True (27)
15. True (22)
16. c (24)
17. False (29)
18. a (25)

19. True (30)
20. False (29)
21. True (35)
22. True (25-26)
23. False (21)
24. True (21)
25. a (33)
26. True (33)
27. False (33)
28. True (33)

## Chapter 5

1. True (43)
2. False (42)
3. True (41)
4. True (45)
5. True (40)
6. d (43)

## Chapter 6

1. True (49)
2. True (48)
3. d (51)
4. False (50)
5. True (50)
6. True (52)

## Chapter 7

1. True (54)
2. True (55)
3. True (54)
4. True (54)
5. a (55)
6. d (56)

## Chapter 8

1. c (60)
2. True (59)
3. True (61)
4. False (61)
5. d (59-60)
6. d (58-59)

## Chapter 9

1. True (72)
2. True (66)
3. True (65)
4. True (75)
5. True (64)
6. True (64)

## Chapter 10

1. a (77)
2. False (78)

3. False (79-80)
4. True (81)
5. True (77)
6. False (77)

## Chapter 11

1. True (85)
2. False (84)
3. True (83)
4. True (83)
5. False (87)
6. True (87)
7. True (85-86)
8. False (88)
9. False (87)
10. True (85)

## Chapter 12

1. c (91)
2. True (91)
3. True (91)
4. True (91)
5. False (92)
6. True (91)

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## Driver's License Classifications

Driver's licenses are classified by the gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of the operator's vehicle. A driver seeking a basic license to operate a car in Illinois is issued a Class D license. The following is a list of all classifications in Illinois:

- **Class A** — Any combination of motor vehicles with a gross combined weight rating (GCWR) of 26,001 pounds or more, providing that the vehicle being towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds. This does not include motorcycles or motor-driven cycles. (A CDL is generally required.)
- **Class B** — Any single motor vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more or any such vehicle towing another not in excess of 10,000 pounds. This does not include motorcycles or motor-driven cycles. (A CDL is generally required.)
- **Class C** — Any motor vehicle with a GVWR of more than 16,000 pounds but less than 26,001 pounds, or any vehicle towing another with a GVWR of 10,000 pounds or less or any vehicle designed to carry 16 or more passengers, including the driver, or hazardous materials that require placarding. This does not include motorcycles or motor-driven cycles.
- **Class D** — Any motor vehicle with a GVWR of 16,000 pounds or less, except those vehicles requiring a Class A, B or C driver's license or an L or M motorcycle license.
- **Class L** — Any motor-driven cycle with less than 150cc displacement.
- **Class M** — Any motorcycle or motor-driven cycle.

Certain licenses can be issued under special circumstances. These are:

- **Probationary License** — Issued in conjunction with a driver improvement activity that grants full-driving privileges during a period of suspension for a driver age 21 and over. The license may only be issued to a person suspended for three moving violations in a 12-month period and cannot be issued for more than three months.
- **Restricted Local Driver's License** — Issued to a driver who lives in a community with less than 3,500 residents and drives only within certain areas of the community.

# ACCEPTABLE IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS

## PHOTOCOPIES ARE NOT ACCEPTED

All acceptable documents presented for verification or proof must be valid (current and not expired). One document may satisfy more than one Group. Documents marked with (\*) are accepted for REAL ID

### Group A — Written Signature

- Canceled Check (within 90 days prior to application)\*
- Cooperative Driver Testing Program Certificate\*
- Court Order\*
- Credit Card/Debit Card (major brand)\*
- Driver's License/ID Card (current) issued by an agency of the U.S. government\*
- Illinois Driver's License (current or expired less than one year)\*
- Illinois ID Card (current or expired less than one year)\*
- Medicare Card\*
- Mortgage or Installation Loan Documents\*
- Out-of-State Driver's License/ID Card (current)\*
- Passport (valid U.S. or foreign)\*
- Social Security Card\*
- Temporary DL/CLP/ID Card\*
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Forms — I-551 (Permanent Resident Card); I-765 (Employment Authorization Card); I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record) with Valid Passport\*
- U.S. Military Driver's License/ID Card\*
- U.S. Military Service Record (e.g., DD214)\*

Acceptable major brand credit cards (for signature verification only) include American Express, Diners Club, Discover, Master Card and Visa.

### Group B — Date of Birth

- Adoption Records
- Birth Certificate\*
- Citizenship Certificate (N560/N561)\*
- Court Order (Change of birth date)
- Certified Grade/High School/College/University Transcript
- Consular Report of Birth Abroad\*
- Illinois Driver's License
- Illinois ID Card
- Naturalization Certificate (N550/N570)\*
- REAL ID Driver's License/ID Card
- Social Security Award Letter (primary beneficiary only)
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Forms — I-551 (Permanent Resident Card); I-571 (Refugee Travel Document); I-766 (Employment Authorization Card); I-797A (Notice of Action Status Change); I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record) with Valid Passport\*
- U.S. Military Driver's License/ID Card
- U.S. Military Service Record (e.g., DD214)
- U.S. Passport or Passport Card (valid with complete date of birth)\*
- U.S. Visa

Group B documents must contain the applicant's full name and complete date of birth and must be verifiable. To be verifiable, it must be possible to contact the regulatory authority to confirm the authenticity of the document.

Birth Certificates must be original or certified by a Board of Health or Bureau of Vital Statistics within the U.S. or by the U.S. State Department, U.S. territories or Canada. A certified copy is a document produced by the issuing jurisdiction which has an embossed seal or an original stamped impression. Foreign passports and foreign birth certificates are accepted as proof if accompanied by any other item in Group B.

### Group C — Social Security Number

- Illinois Driver's License Record (verified)
- Illinois ID Card Record (verified)
- Non-SSA-1099 Form\*
- Pay stub or printed electronic deposit receipt bearing the applicant's name and SSN\*
- Social Security Award Letter (primary beneficiary only)
- Social Security Card (issued by SSA)\*
- SSA-1099 Form\*
- U.S. Military Driver's License/ID Card
- U.S. Military Service Record (e.g., DD214)
- W-2\*

Group C documents must contain the applicant's name and full Social Security number. If using an Illinois driver's license or ID record, the Social Security number must have been previously verified with the SSA.

An applicant applying for a Temporary Visitor Driver's License is not required to present documents from Group C. Instead, the applicant must sign a declaration on the TVDL application that the applicant is, at the time of application, ineligible to obtain a Social Security number.

### Group D — Residency

- Official Electronic Statement (dated within 90 days prior to application)
- Bank Statement (dated within 90 days prior to application)\*
- Canceled Check (dated within 90 days prior to application)\*
- Certified Grade/High School/College/University Transcript\*
- Credit Report (issued by Experian, Equifax or TransUnion, dated within 12 months of application)\*
- Deed/Title, Mortgage, Rental/Lease agreement\*
- Insurance Policy (homeowner's or renter's)\*
- Letter on Official School Letterhead (dated within 90 days prior to application)\*
- Medical Claim or Statement of Benefits (from private insurance company or public (government) agency, dated within 90 days of application)\*
- Official mail received from a State, County, City or Village or a Federal Government agency (must include first and last name of applicant and complete current address), may include — Homestead Exemption Receipt; Jury Duty Notice (issued within 90 days of application); Selective Service Card; Social Security Annual Statement; Social Security Disability Insurance Statement; Supplemental Security Income Benefits Statement; Voter Registration Card\*
- Pay Stub or Electronic Deposit Receipt\*
- Pension or Retirement Statement\*
- Phone Book, produced by a phone book publisher\*
- Report Card from Grade/High School or College/University\*
- Tuition invoice/official mail from college or university, dated within the 12 months prior to application\*
- Utility Bill (electric, water, refuse, telephone land/cell, cable or gas, issued within 90 days of application)\*

Group D documents must contain the applicant's full name and residence address. Documents in Groups A, B or C, that contain the full name and residence address also may be used for Group D. Two residency documents required for REAL ID.

**After review of all identification presented, Secretary of State management has the right to accept or refuse any document.**

**Both lists — acceptable and unacceptable — are subject to change.**

Documents marked with (\*) are accepted for REAL ID

# Unacceptable Documents

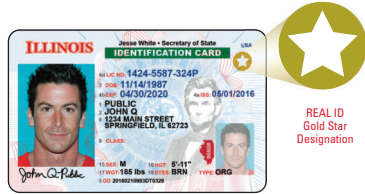
- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bond Receipt or Bail/Bond Card</li><li>• Business Card</li><li>• Check Cashing Card</li><li>• Club/Fraternal Membership Card</li><li>• College or University ID Card</li><li>• Commercially produced (non-State or unofficial) ID Card</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DHS Card or documents (Department of Human Services)</li><li>• Fishing License</li><li>• HFS Card (Healthcare and Family Services)</li><li>• Handwritten ID/Employment Card</li><li>• Hunting License</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Illinois Concealed Carry Card</li><li>• Illinois FOID Card</li><li>• Instruction Permit/Receipt</li><li>• Insurance Card</li><li>• International Driving Permit</li><li>• Library Card</li><li>• Personal Mail</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Traffic Citation (Arrest Ticket)</li><li>• Unlicensed Financial Institution Loan Papers</li><li>• Vehicle Registration</li><li>• Video Club Membership Card</li><li>• Wallet ID</li></ul> |
|--|---|--|---|

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# Real ID-Compliant Driver's Licenses/ID Cards



Driver's License



ID Card

# Standard Driver's License and ID Cards

Federal Limits Apply



Driver's License

Federal Limits Apply



ID Card



Commercial Driver's License (CDL)



Temporary Visitor Driver's License (TVDL)



Under 21 Driver's License



Under 21 ID Card



Under 21 CDL



Under 21 TVDL



# Know your options.

Make the choice that is right for you.



You **NEED** a REAL ID if:

- You do **not** have a valid U.S. passport or passport card; AND
- You use airplanes as a mode of domestic transportation; or
- You visit military bases; or
- You visit secure federal facilities.

You **DO NOT NEED** a REAL ID if:

- You have a valid U.S. passport or passport card;
- You do **not** use airplanes as a mode of domestic transportation;
- You do **not** visit military bases; or
- You do **not** visit secure federal facilities.

**If you have a valid U.S. passport,  
you are NOT required to have a REAL ID to travel.**

For additional information:

**REALID.ilsos.gov**

**833-503-4074**

**JESSE WHITE**  
SECRETARY OF STATE